

Blue Hills Environmental Association, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2014

In Attendance:

Paul Ramsey
Delwin Wengert
Bruce Ray
Robert Mackenzie
Ferrin Crosby
Ray Davis

Conference Call:

Steve West

Item #1

Paul Ramsey welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:04 a.m.

Item #2

Paul asked for approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2013, board meeting. Delwin Wengert moved the minutes be approved. Steve West seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Item #3

Election of Officers – Delwin made a motion that the officers remain the same. Steve seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Item #4

Consideration of signing lease with the Alpine Sanitary District for the Alpine Transfer Site. Ray reported as requested the legal description was added. Steve made a motion to approve and sign the lease. Delwin seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous to sign the lease.

Item #5

Consideration of signing a contract with City of Holbrook for waste hauling and disposal. Ray stated that the City of Holbrook contract came up for bid and Blue Hills Environmental received the bid. The contract needed to be signed and Ray was making sure there were no objections. The contract is for four years. Ferrin asked if there was an option to extend if both parties were happy. Ray stated it was a four-year contract then it would go out to bid again. No further discussion. Bruce made a motion to approve. Steve seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Item #6

Discussion and consideration of taking over Catron County Transfer Sites and employees. Catron County is looking to get out of the refuse handling business. Ray had Catron County answer some questions as far as employee total benefits, wages, trips from each site, total tonnage, equipment they have and list of each sites. Ray asked if there were questions that anyone else had. Ray reported he needed to have a conversation with New Mexico Environmental Quality. Paul asked how much it would cost to register our equipment in New Mexico. Ray did not know but would get an answer. Delwin asked about employees, benefits, and wages. Ray stated that the part-time employees were eligible for medical, dental and retirement, which is a concern. Ray voiced some concern over the mileage and how difficult some of the issues would be to handle such as employees not showing up for a shift and how that would be handled. Ray stated he felt it needed to work out financially for Blue Hills Environmental to even think about entering into it. Robert Mackenzie asked if the transfer sites were established and running. Ray stated yes they are all functioning today. Delwin asked if Catron County wants Blue Hills Environmental to purchase the equipment they have. Ray reported no they would keep it. Ray reported that the tonnage would need to be adequate for it to be cost effective and the need for backhoes at each site. Ferrin asked if Blue Hills Environmental would haul from each site. Ray stated yes every site would now be Blue Hills Environmental responsibility. Delwin asked if Blue Hills Environmental would hire additional employees. Ray stated probably one more driver and brought up that he put on hold buying nine new roll-offs that was approved in 2013 based on need and timing. Steve voiced some concern with it over price increase on insurances as well as the amount of distances we would need to cover and how many miles a year and how quickly we would need to replace roll-offs. Would Catron County be willing to haul to Alpine or what are their options? Delwin stated that he felt it needs to be cost effective for Blue Hills Environmental and Blue hills Environmental needs to be able to put money aside for replacement. Delwin and Steve asked if Catron County supplemented and paid for the transfer sites or are they self-supporting. There was a discussion of locations of each site. Ray reported Catron County has issued punch cards and they will possibly expire the 1st of July. Catron County would like an answer as soon as possible. Delwin made a motion to table it until the next Blue Hills Environmental Board Meeting and wait for all of the answers to the questions that have been issued. Steve seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Item #7

Discussion on Equipment – Ray reported that Empire had repaired the 631. The repairs on the cushion hitch; brakes and transmission had been completed and is back up and running. Ray reported that the 2006 Peterbilt was purchased and running routes. Ray stated that the same company where they purchased the Peterbilt would have more trucks in July that will be available for purchase if Blue Hills Environmental wanted to continue to update their side load fleet. Ray asked for input on when the cities and county replaces vehicles. Ray stated he thought Blue Hills Environmental should start looking into replacing a few pickups over the next couple of years and will start budgeting for them. Delwin stated the county is on a program of 150,000 miles and they go to the counties online auction. The cities use the same web site to get rid of their surplus vehicles. Ray

discussed the rear load fleet and that Blue Hills Environmental should start considering upgrading to front load trucks. The rear load trucks Blue Hills Environmental is currently using will continue to be okay for a while but within a year or two will need updating as well as the rear load bins. Ray stated that the 2 and 3-yard containers could be fitted to work with the front load trucks but Blue Hills Environmental would need to replace the 4, 6 and 8-yard containers. Paul asked if Blue Hills Environmental could do a section at a time or does it need to be done all at once. Ray stated it would work out to do sections at a time so Blue Hills Environmental does not have such a huge expense at one time. Delwin asked if there is an option of a lease purchase on Refuse trucks. Ray was not sure but would get details on Blue Hills Environmental Options. No vote needed.

Item #8

Ray reviewed Blue Hills Environmental sick and vacation time to see if it was in line with the county and cities. Steve and Bruce reported that it is in line with Springerville and Eagar. Delwin stated that it was close to the county. There were no changes needed to the Personnel Manual. Ray asked if anyone had a cap on vacation time that Blue Hills Environmental capped at 250 hours. Everyone agreed it was good and leave it as is. Ray stated that he was going to budget a 3% cost of living raise. Delwin made a motion to approve salaries and to add a 3% cost of living raise. Paul seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Item #9

Customer review – Ray stated numbers were consistent no big or small increase in either residential and commercial accounts. Residential was down about 60 but Alpine summer residents were not all back to Alpine yet and that accounted for 30. Ray stated no big changes were happening. No vote needed.

Ray stated the next Board Meeting would be on July 14, 2014, at 7:00 a.m.

Item #10

Adjournment – Steve made a motion to adjourn. Paul seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.