



Minutes - Draft

PWI-Public Works & Infrastructure Committee

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

3:30 PM

This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available

(1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage,

(2) on DCTVChannel23.TV

Meeting Started At: 3:32PM

Attendees: Commissioners Cochran-Johnson, Terry, Patrick, Davis Johnson, Rader

Present 3 - Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner Robert Patrick, and Commissioner Ted Terry

I. MINUTES

2021-3140 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the September 21, 2021 Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Meeting
MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, and Commissioner Patrick

Abstain: 1 - Commissioner Terry

2021-3179 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the September 28, 2021 Special Call Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Meeting
MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner Patrick, and
Commissioner Terry**

II. DISCUSSION

CIP Update

-presentation from Director Hutchinson, regarding Sanitation Revenue Optimization

-Question LCJ: regarding the landfill, do you have an estimate of how many tons it has a capacity to hold?

T Hutchinson: Seminole Road landfill, the State of Georgia does everything in cubic yards. Seminole landfill is the largest landfill in permitted cubic yards in the state of Georgia

-Question LCJ: when we're opening a cell, what is the capacity of the sale?

T Hutchinson: we do everything based on capacity; we are constantly monitoring how many cubic yards we are putting into that area, so that we can forecast the cells; the current cell that we have there is about a year left

-Question LCJ: what is the cost to build a cell?

T Hutchinson: About \$500,000-\$600,000 per acre to build a cell

-Question TT: is it true that the current cell that's being worked on now, will be taller than the current mountain that I visited?

T Hutchinson: That is correct. At the end of the life at Seminole in another 50-60 years, it will be taller than the hill at this current moment.

-Question LCJ: have we already broken ground on building the new cell?

T Hutchinson: we haven't started that yet, we will be putting out the bid soon. It will be an expensive process; we will be building a long cell that will give us more capacity; time span about 5 years; the length of time to build a cell could last from 9 months to 12 months, depending on cell size, weather, conditions, and other factors

-LCJ: we'll be looking forward to receiving the RFP so that we can stay on target.

-Question LCJ: determining the \$100, could we look at what other jurisdictions are doing? We offer a discount compared to others. Are we charging individuals \$50 when we go out for bulk items? We could be charging a scale.

T Hutchinson: for legal Marshal evictions, there is no charge; we are working with Legal to see if we can get that changed. The \$50 minimum charge is for what we call a half-a-load; it is by measurement of weight for that truck. Bulk piles does contain a charge.

-Question TT: I feel \$100 is too high a minimum charge. So the \$50 minimum is anticipating that there will be a half-load or less, and but if it ends up being a full load you're going to add on another \$50 to that?

T Hutchinson: that's correct

-Question MDJ: you stated landlords pay nothing to pick up what's left from dispossession from their homes correct?

T Hutchinson: The Marshall, the legal evictions are no charge. If you have a landlord that has a renter we do charge for that. When apartments do evictions, that's considered a commercial bulk pickup, and we will charge the apartment complex to go out there are pickup that. But it is the same charges, it is the same \$50 minimum. There's no distinguishing difference between a commercial customer account, and a residential account, so the same charge is that \$50 minimum now. We could make a decision, as a separate charge for residential and a separate charge for commercial to meet a minimum charge.

-MDJ: you may want to consider a different cost for a residential and commercial cost. Commissioner Cochran-Johnson referenced a graduated fee.

-MDJ: I would like to see a pricing stepping stone for \$50-\$75 especially for residential, as well as different pricing structure for residential, commercial, or evictions. Regarding the legal dispossession, we have submitted that to the State for consideration for 2 consecutive years to get a fee included in the filing fee for dispossession that you all can utilize. We will continue to do that until it comes up for a vote and it is voted on.

-Question LCJ: Mr. Williams how long has it been since we've visited our sanitation fees? When we look at other jurisdiction models, we need to give consideration as to what will be invested as to the advantage of the County

-Question JR: in addition to the bulk collection fee, one of the things we don't do well is to have a lot of nuances regarding load size, which complicates service delivery. Perhaps we should look at offering a minimum level of service smaller than the 1/2 load to maintain a lower price, and look to recover the costs from people that are exploiting our services more intently. But we also pick up goods like broken appliances and furniture for free if residents call in. That is an extraordinary value. On another note, many jurisdictions have a place where you can bring refuse in a transfer station; we don't currently do that do we?

T Hutchinson: We have this at the landfill; a residential convenience center. We don't have a transfer station, based on the safety and big trucks that are there, we can't currently allow personal cars to drop off in between the big trucks.

JR: I wonder if there's an opportunity to setup a convenience center outside of Seminole, because it's in an area of the County that is farther for some, and I feel that some of the traffic is destined for Seminole. If we could have some of that traffic destined for another location in the County, maybe that would be attractive for some of our stakeholders that would prefer that option. Perhaps a collection point in North DeKalb so that we could see folks be able to use that. We would have to find a way to charge a tipping fee in the same fashion that we do at Seminole.

-T Hutchinson: a convenience center requires permitting, and if it's not manned, you will essentially have a legal dumping

site; so we would just want to be mindful of the pros and cons there.

-JR: I am concerned that we see those bulky items that are too big that people leave out anyway; I'm trying to make sure we don't end up with stuff on the street because it's a long way from Seminole or because they live in an apartment or something like that. This year we made a loan from the General Fund to the Sanitation fund; that is indicative to me that our rate structure doesn't support the full delivery of services; we need to rectify that. This instance would be an incremental increase, as well as a rate increase in which we're offering more services for it. I would appreciate a thought about that dynamic in not having to drive all the way to Seminole.

T Hutchinson: duly noted

-JR: there is also the opportunity for food composting fees; a lot of that hinges upon the quality of the food waste stream we may be able to use. There may be 2 suppliers that may be out there; one is the school system and the other committed to a zero waste dynamic is Hartsfield Jackson Airport. Without a food waste stream, our compost will remain a non-marketable mulch product, whereas if we had a competent compost operator and good food waste stream we might be able to have a compost that was a commercially marketable product.

T Hutchinson: we've looked at that a couple of times, but we're asking the vendors to come in and bring in the capital and the equipment up front; my concern as division director and trying to be a good neighbor to that community is the odors associated with that operation when you bring in food waste; right now with the compost that we're accomplishing is very natural from wood that we pick up from the residents. It's very low odor; so I would just be concerned about all parameters once we start looking at that.

-Question TT: Could you discuss out-of-county tipping fees? I also think we should continue diving into the compost/food waste system. Are we subsidizing other counties for an affordable waste disposal option? Requests research related to what the odor looks like in terms of area and how that would impact surrounding neighborhoods if DeKalb had that as an option. T

Hutchinson: we don't allow commercial haulers to enter our facilities, it is for DeKalb residents only. Henry County residents do come into the landfill, as well as box trucks. We do get a lot of that, but there are charges for it. Maybe separating out for DeKalb vs. other residents could be something we look at as well.

-LCJ: there could be a tipping fee assessed to vehicles that do not bear a DeKalb County plate; we just passed in the amount of \$900,000, where we are paying people to take our recyclables; there is a program that is operational and I'm not sure if you'd had an opportunity to look into that. Cobb, Gwinnett, and several municipalities are participating, and we're looking for the best ways to save. We may need to take time to have that in a separate discussion.

-Question RP: are there projects on how much of a shortfall in Sanitation budget we would be looking at over 3 or 5 years?

Z Williams: we can provide that; what we have done is find every opportunity to save and be as efficient as possible. All that culminated in large part with the loan of \$10 million at midyear, where we said we were going to come back and have this discussion. What we will be developing is a proposal to increase fees at the landfill, tipping fees, modify the bulk pickup, in order to cover the outstanding payback for the \$10M loan and give us breathing room into the future. What we will be proposing will allow us to continue to pay off existing investments and well for paying capital investments in the landfill. When we have that proposal, we'll bring that back. It's not by accident that we're looking at the landfill and tipping fees, and not the residential first.

-MDJ: thank you Ms. Hutchinson for the job that you do in Sanitation. You do your job well and position us well

-T Hutchinson: Speaking on the hefty energy bag program you alluded to earlier; this recycling program that other counties participate in is primarily for plastics that are hard to recycle. For us, the recycling program that we offer pretty much covers all the plastics; we do 1-5 and 7. The only plastic we don't do is number 6. This is for hard to recycle plastics, and not the single stream that we pickup at the house. We have the most comprehensive recycling program in the State of Georgia. For others counties that don't have a program or a very limited program, that is for residents to benefit from this program.

-LCJ: requests this presentation be shared with the commissioners

III. AGENDA ITEM

Previously Heard Agenda Items:

[2021-3082](#)

Commission District(s): All
CO - Change Order No. 5 for Contract Nos.: 1063844, 1063841, 1063831 and 1068774 Annual Water & Sewer Construction (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). These contracts consist of primarily providing installation and repair of water and sewer pipes in various sizes. This request seeks to increase contract funding and the contract term through December 31, 2022. Awarded to GS Construction, Inc., SD&C, Inc., Granite Inliner, LLC and The Renee Group/CamKen Consulting (RGI/CamKen JV). Total Amount Not to Exceed: \$32,000,000.00.

MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 10/12/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

-information provided by CPO Horner

-Question TT: *if the \$32M is not enough then you will come back and talk about it then?*

CPO Horner: *that is my understanding of it*

-Question RP: *how has this been handled in the past when audit finds something greater than staff recommends?*

Z Williams: *this is a first*

LCJ: *from a fiscal accountability standpoint, we stand by the \$32M. My suggestion is to come back to us with a change order if there is a request for additional funding; we will make due with what we have*

-TT: *Motion to approve the substitute agenda item in amount not to exceed \$32M*

New Agenda Items:

[2021-2946](#)

Commission District(s): 5 and 7
LB - Invitation No. 21-101330 Kensington Pump Station and Pipeline Project: for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). Consists of the construction of the new Kensington Road Sanitary Sewer Pump Station to replace a network of failing gravity sewer mains. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: Ruby Collins, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed \$2,310,667.00.

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 10/12/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

-no additional information requested

2021-3015

Commission District(s): All
RFP - Request for Proposals No. 20-500550 Construction Management Services (Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). Consists of providing on-call construction management services that include pre-construction services, construction inspection, field services, management of meetings, production of progress reports and other related services for water and sewer projects. Recommend award to the two (2) highest scoring proposers: CGA Solutions [Joint Venture of Corporate Environmental Risk Management, LLC (CERM)/Gresham Smith/Atkins North America, Inc.] and Tetra Tech, Inc. Total Amount Not to Exceed \$26,340,300.00.

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 10/12/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

-this item is currently in OIIA audit review

[2021-3083](#)

Commission District(s): All
CO - Change Order No. 4 to Contract No. 1177081 Trenchless Sewer Line Rehabilitation and Construction and Televising Inspection Services (Savannah Contract: Event No. 5937/Buyer Contract No. 886 [DeKalb Cooperative Agreement]): for use by Department of Watershed Management (DWM). This contract is a cooperative agreement and consists of providing sewer line rehabilitation services; to include inspections, sewer line cleaning, and cured in place pipe. This request is to increase the contract term through June 30, 2022. This request will allow for the completion of previously approved additional services and the continuation of existing sanitary sewer line rehabilitation services. Awarded to Insituform Technologies, LLC. INCREASE IN TERM ONLY

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 10/12/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

-no additional information requested

[2021-2997](#)

Commission District(s): All
United States Geological Survey (USGS) 5-Year Agreement

MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 10/12/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

-substitute agenda item provided

-D Hayes: the change is to allow Watershed Management to fund this initiative, and Roads and Drainage was removed to allow this to come from only Watershed's budget

-Question LCJ: at some point we should see a presentation on the monitoring at these facilities

Z Williams: we have a presentation we would be happy to present, or we can come back and do it. On a daily basis we are actively monitoring our water quality, and not just when there are spills

-Question TT: I am familiar with this; we could spend a lot of time on this; I would like to have time at the next PWI to discuss or view the presentation and discuss at the next PWI

-LCJ: we will pick up this presentation at the next PWI meeting

-TT: requests the areas where nonprofits that are doing water quality monitoring overlap with what we are funding with this contract, and what other groups are doing related to sewer leaks

D Hayes: this is about DeKalb's MS4; it is only for the sewer system that DeKalb County is responsible for; we take this data and apply it

Z Williams: in order to have a comprehensive discussion, we'd be happy to present that at the next meeting

-Question RP: where does the funding source come from in the County?

Z Williams: Watershed

-RP: since it's MS4 is it separate from stormwater utility fees?

R Lemke: it is directly related; however the funding for it has historically been Watershed; the greater benefit goes to Watershed; it is a cooperative effort

-Question RP: there's enough revenue by Stormwater?

R Lemke: This is funded entirely by Watershed

-LCJ: during the next meeting we will have a presentation and will bring back this item

2021-3209 Commission District(s): 5 and 7
Panola Road Improvements in City of Stonecrest
This agenda item was no official recommendation

-item not heard in committee; will be heard at next regularly scheduled PWI

Meeting Ended At: 4:59PM

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC