

**CLINTON COUNTY AREA SOLID WASTE AGENCY
FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

8 PRESENT

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call was taken; those present were;

Clinton - Schemers	Clinton County – Irwin	DeWitt – Chrones
Camanche - Varner	Andover – White	Delmar – Goodall
Grand Mound - Lange	Low Moor - Goldensoph	

We have 8 votes present; 5 votes needed for majority and 6 needed for a super majority.

Seward told board of passing of former long-time board member Verlyn Scheckel from DeWitt. Seward and Chairman Varner asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Scheckel.

Clinton County made a motion to approve January 11th, 2024 minutes. Andover seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

UNANIMOUS CONSENT CALENDAR: Clinton made a motion to approve the Unanimous Consent Calendar. Delmar seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND EDUCATION REPORT – Brad Seward

- A.** Damage to Facility Water Pipes – Update – During the blizzard and extreme cold we experienced in January, multiple climate control failures in our recycling plant took place. Our large oil furnace did not function properly. Also, multiple thermostats failed to kick in because of bad batteries. This caused us to basically have two of the eight overhead heaters functioning. The colder conditions over that weekend led to the pipe freezing and some eventual cracking of some water pipes. Also damaged was the water softener. We were able to get most of the overhead heaters working and were able to get heat back in the building. We have also been able to pinpoint what caused the oil furnace to not work consistently. This issue has been addressed.

An insurance claim was filed. Work has been finished and all services have returned to normal.

Clinton: what is the overall cost of the project? Seward:\$1000 deductible. Right now, plumbing was \$5000 ballpark. No cost estimate yet on the water softener.

Delmar: Shouldn't the thermostats be hard wired. Seward: They showed blank. Will address with HVAC company.

We've never had these problems before and I aim to not have a repeat.

Clinton County: Maybe look into radiant heaters. Seward: Talked about radiant heat by the pipes.

We will be changing batteries in thermostats at least once a year, before winter. We will replace one and potentially two of the non-working overhead furnaces. The other is being repaired or replaced.

Ultimately this is failure as a team, and as the director of this team, I take responsibility for this.

Camanche: Have never had this happen. If this had occurred previously, then blame may be placed.

- B.** Legislative Update – Seward passed out a document with environmental proposals at the legislative level for reading by the board.

- C. Replacement of Office Server – While attempting to run updates on our server in late December and early January, our scale software company, Paradigm, became alarmed at the performance of office server. Paradigm recommended we explore replacing the server, which is going on six years old. I contacted Office Machine Consultants, the company we have been working with for IT services. After consulting with our software providers, OMC prepared a quote for a new virtual server, which can be expanded and tailored to meet our needs much easier than a traditional server. The executive board sensing the need to get this unit replaced in an expedited manner, approved the purchase of the machine.

Clinton: What's the lifespan on a server? DeWitt: 5-7 years, based on environment, how it's being taxed. DeWitt: this has solid state drives. Software costs and battery backup add to cost.

- D. March Meeting Agenda Delivery – I will be out of the office the first full week in March. Those who get e-mail delivered items will likely get those docs Saturday or the following Monday. Staff plans to pack mail out packets at the normal time, while I am absent.
- E. Loader Replacement Update – I have met with John Deere and Caterpillar reps in person and have contacted CASE. I hope to have bids for similar machines for you next month.

ENGINEER SITE REPORT – Jeff Phillips of SCS Engineering:

Annual Water Quality Report is done. Submitted to DNR. Leachate levels will be a concern. LS-3 has too much leachate head in the cell. That's not abnormal for landfills. Might be a pump issue. Need to take a look at that. Started creeping up last year.

Leachate Interceptor Trench - Have to amend permit to allow for building of the trench. To capture leachate in closed footprint. Has been submitted to DNR for review. Cost \$90K to \$100K estimated. Can use money from closure-post closure to fund this project, but must be paid back in.

DeWitt: Is there a hard and fast deadline to pay back the account?

Phillips: have to back for funding of however long it is before it must be paid back.

DeWitt: So, we have an unknown amount of time to pay back. Seward: Area must be safe to human health, so sees no issues before it can be completely closed.

DeWitt: may have to be open longer.

Phillips: If there's a deficit you have to pay that back into the fund. We'd rather funds come from general fund.

DeWitt: I know what you would rather do. But we have this money set aside for this.

Andover: I don't understand what the point is in using it, if we have to pay it back.

DeWitt: we could leverage it over a number of years.

Clinton County: Could we pay it back in ten-thousand-dollar increments? Phillips: I don't have the balance right now.

DeWitt: Account has \$4.8 Million in it. That closure and post closure. Phillips how much is the post closure balance? Seward: don't know of the top of my head.

DeWitt: Get those balances, please. I don't want such a hit to the general fund.

Clinton: May have to take from the general fund.

DeWitt: We need to understand the \$225K set aside. Clinton: We're not there yet.

Phillips: We will get the account numbers to you before next month.

Phillips: First quarter methane monitoring will take place in March. Anything else on interceptor trench?

Seward: Need to decide how to handle this process for interceptor trench earth work is done. Do we Rittmer do it, do we bid it, does the Executive Board decide?

Clinton: Needs to be addressed by whole board. I think it needs to go out for bid.

DeWitt: Would we get a quote from Rittmer beforehand and then decide if it is too much to bid?

Seward: If you put your number out there, then it's out there.

Clinton: Need to be bid it. Camanche: If not, could be setting bad precedent.

LANDFILL OPERATIONS REPORT – Brad Seward for Rittmer. Nothing to report. We closed for wind today. 11:30 AM.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ANY AGENCY MEMBERS OR THEIR CONSTITUENTS:

- A. Clinton – I was looking at putting together a purchase policy. We have by-laws and not a policy. I thought I would bring one to the board, if the board is in agreement. I can probably have it ready before next meeting.

DeWitt: Could it have blanks in it, so the board could decide at the next meeting.

Andover: I think it tightens and buttons some things up and allows Brad to have more guidance.

Clinton: looking for a blessing for the board.

Delmar: Already have numbers. Camanche: Just put it down in black and white.

Clinton: By-laws would govern the policy. We need to visit the numbers. It covers some legalese.

DeWitt: It could help the audit.

Clinton: I will finish it up and get it to Brad before next month.

Clinton County: What are the limits? Seward: Director's daily limit for a project is \$2500. Executive Board can approve up to \$25,000.

DeWitt: Would bid threshold would be involved?

Clinton: I just don't want to waste time on something you don't want.

- B. DeWitt: Do you have any update on the machine that burnt up?

Seward: Have been cleared of that. It's been dropped.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. SCS Permitted Expansion Update – The board wanted some further explanation and prices from SCS. Phillips: Presented three concepts. With that we developed fill plans and determined amount of years expansion would give. Phillips explained these areas by showing map.

West area is 21 years. 42 years on extended west area. North area 26 years of life.

North area could reduce amount of storm water getting into cap. Maybe the north area covers some old cap area.

West expansion is going to be difficult for the creek involved.

Western most expansion is the most expensive, North expansion is the second most expensive, and adjacent west expansion is least expensive.

DeWitt: What I was asking for is how much is this going to cost?

Phillips: I can get that for you next month.

Seward: We approved task 1 of the proposal in the fall. Phillips: Task 1 was to get volumes. Task 2 was then to get to get the permit.

Clinton County: Could you put a map together?

Clinton County: We can't develop to the east. What about the north and west?

Low Moor: What does it cost to permit? Phillips: The big issue is that you need to have a plan to permit.

Clinton County: You have to have a plan in plan to permit? Phillips: And you have to have a plan in place to close the unit when done. They want the whole process planned through.

DeWitt: So, we have to have the whole plan figured out.

Delmar: would property expansion help? Phillips: It wouldn't hurt.

Phillips: If you want it great, if you need it gets expensive.

Phillips: Not contingent on adjacent land. It would change the amount of area to look at.

Low Moor: They don't make more land. You don't want to run out of land.

DeWitt: It's not going to hurt to get the numbers.

Phillips: Are you "dirt poor"? Seward: We are.

- B.** Clinton National Bank CD Update – I spoke with CNB. The penalty would be six months interest for breaking the CD. About \$300 would be the penalty, as I figured. The CD is drawing 0.6% interest and matures on November 16th of 2025. What does the board want to do?

Andover made a motion to "break the CD" with Clinton National Bank. Low Moor seconded. Roll call vote was taken.

Clinton – Schemers – Yes	Clinton County – Irwin- Yes	DeWitt – Chrones - Yes
Camanche – Varner - Yes	Andover – White - Yes	Delmar – Goodall -Yes
Grand Mound - Lange - Yes	Low Moor – Goldensoph – Yes	

Motion passes 8-0.

Andover: How much is that worth? Seward: About \$102K.

Camanche: What are we going to do with it?

Delmar: talked about rates being in 4-5% range.

Andover: Asked about talking with Citizens First Bank on matching CD rates.

Low Moor: Who are our depositories? Clinton National and Citizens First. Low Moor: ask both.

- C. DeWitt / County Recycling Container Services Follow-up – AT Disposal agreed to a one-year term and we could potentially move the container.
- D. Contract Commercial Waste Follow-up – Notice of contract ending and new contract documents have been sent out to the haulers that are under current contracts.

If contracts are not signed by hauler, then the hauler pays full price on all materials.

- E. Health Insurance and Life Insurance Update – Before you are the health insurance quoted rates for True North – Wellmark with a \$1500 deductible. The old County Wellmark plan was a \$500 deductible, that level is NOT being quoted for us.

These numbers have been reviewed by the Executive Board.

Quoted also for the new plan is employee only dental and employee only vision. The old county plan only covered employee-only dental. Vision was not offered.

The old county plan did cover family dental, but at employee expense.

Also, the county covered the life insurance \$10K policy. The life insurance proposed numbers, along with potential short- and long-term disability are still being quoted, therefore potential numbers are not yet available.

Andover: We met with committee and some employees. I had the most mixed feelings. This is not a private business and they are somewhat county employees. They asked about 100% coverage and I disagreed. My number was higher. We are currently working with 10% of the employee funding of insurance.

Andover: they were very strong with life insurance and disability.

Seward: We currently have a life insurance policy of \$10K through the county. According to the county, the county is paying the \$2 per month premium for that.

Clinton County: There is no agreement we can find on that.

Andover: We would like to look at different aspects of this. True North has some and I would also like to look at AFLAC. Some of things are important to them, maybe we could cover some and they could cover some. I'd like to see these numbers. I feel like there has been a lot of give and not a lot of give back in this relationship. With the raises that we've given them and the insurance, I'd like to see a little more being done.

Clinton County: I know ours is \$500 deductible, but our rates are going to be higher than that. Our rates are going up 10%.

Andover: Insurance is expensive. I wanted a little give with a little take. I'm not in favor of 100% Clinton County: Going to 11% employee contribution.

DeWitt: I've never did the same contribution rate on dental and vision. Usually, it's 50-50. I feel like the percentage is 10% is fair. It's not going to go down; it may go up.

Andover: I also want to come up and view what everybody does during a day. What we do and what we do when we have down time. I don't want people to feel like we're going to rip the rug from underneath them. We do appreciate them. But this is the real world.

Clinton: It's going up about \$200 per employee a year.

Andover: I think we need to take into consideration. Are we going to carry life and short term and long-term disability insurance?

Clinton: as a police officer I had to carry my own.

Andover: If their passionate about it, then...

Clinton: I think \$10K life is low. Seward: We are looking at \$25K.

Andover: Is that through True North? AFLAC has a whole life and if you get more than half of the employees, there's no blood work. It's also fairly inexpensive.

Clinton asked about the deductible currently vs. the proposal. Clinton County: Our deductible is locked in because we were grandfathered in.

Andover: asked if county was going to 11%?

Clinton County: Based on law enforcement contract, too.

DeWitt: The employees have always had skin in this. They've been paying in a percentage for several years. Camanche: They've always had to follow the county's lead. They've had no choice in the matter. Now they think they have choice in the matter.

Clinton County: The dental that should be on their cost. The vision should be on their cost. The disability should on their cost.

Low Moor: \$82 a paycheck for medical? Clinton County: that's per employee for single.

Delmar: I think they should have a stake in the disability. But I don't want them to take advantage of it either. At some places these credits are getting abused.

Camanche: I was on disability when I lost my job for injury on duty. If I didn't have it, then I would have gone broke. I don't know what I would have done without disability.

Andover: I've seen both sides. If they want it, but let them get the disability. I'm not sold on paying for it all.

Clinton: I think we should go with 10%, with the caveat that the dust will settle. And it would be going up.

Andover: I would a little more give and take. I feel like we're getting a lot taken, but a lot given lately.

DeWitt: Committee and employees did a phenomenal job putting the proposal together.

Andover: I would like to see better work.

Clinton: the plan was to come to the board and ponder. Approve next month.

Clinton County: My opinion is, I'm fine with the ten percent. Anything they want to add is on them. Low Moor agrees.

Seward: We need to come back with a vote next month on the medical, dental, and vision. Clinton: I think we need the death benefit (life insurance), too. That has to be covered, too.

Andover: can we have AFLAC and them come talk to us? I think the employees need to hear it, too.

- F. Vespene Project Update / Land Lease Agreement PROPOSAL # 1**
The Vespene Landfill Gas Purchase Agreement was signed and sent to Vespene for signing. Also, We have a land lease agreement by Vespene to consider. If we approve and sign this, then Vespene will contact us with the next steps.

Low Moor: Has attorney looked at it yet? Seward: Not yet, but he can.

DeWitt: I want nothing to do with it until the attorney looks at it.

Low Moor made a motion to send this to the attorney. Clinton County seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

EMERGENCY BUSINESS:

- A. Leachate Lagoon Pump: Seward: Leachate Lagoon pump we purchased in 2021 will need to be installed. Old pump is failing. Will fall under SCS Leachate Pump SCADA Maintenance contract.

DeWitt: If we rebuild a 2005 pump, how long will it last?

Phillips: Rebuild if possible or replace, whichever is cheaper.

DeWitt made a motion to adjourn; until March 14th, 2024, at the Recycling Center at 6:30 PM. Adjourned at 8:07 PM.