

Council Workshop Minutes **February 11th, 2013**

Call to Order- 6:58 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call-: Ben Prescott, Bill Zoller, Giles Seith (arrived at 7:10), Paul Janson, Linda Schilling, Marty Hura is absent. Motion to excuse Marty Hura and Giles Seith by Ben Prescott, seconded by Bill Zoller, All ayes on vote.

Others: Mayor Linda Clark, Clerk-Treasurer Jenny August.

Citizens: Jack Groselle, Hiram Township Trustee

Discussion of Portage County Solid Waste Update:

Mayor Clark introduced Jack Groselle, Hiram Township Trustee. She invited him to this meeting because he has been very involved in the Portage County Solid Waste plan. He has attended many meetings that have been held.

Paul Janson asked Jack to summarize what is going on with the plan. Jack said a group of Village, City, and Township officials met at Maplewood because they were not happy with the plan. They got everything worked out for the plan update. Then it all changed. A City of Kent Councilwoman said that no community can privatize if it hurts any part of the County. Jack said they are having difficulties getting figures from the County so they can determine if it will hurt anyone. There is a Tipping Fee of \$9.60 per ton. Cuyahoga County has a tipping fee of \$1.50. This is a tax that the County decides on. The haulers pay this, and it comes back to the County. This is trash, not recyclables. The idea is if we did a better job of recycling, this would reduce trash. Portage County is the second highest in the state of Ohio. This generates one million dollars per year. Of the million dollars, \$80,000 goes to inspecting and reporting at the scales.(to the EPA). It is in the plan that Kent gets a stipend. It is \$12,000 per year. Jack suggested at a meeting that this should be taken out of the plan, but they won't.

Jack said that Portage County is taking away the paint program and hazardous waste, and also the education portion of the current program. They applied for a one million dollar grant, offering a one million dollar match. This grant is for seven new trucks. Why would they do this if people may be allowed to privatize? This could go towards other things that they don't want to do anymore such as education or elimination of hazardous waste. Kathleen Chandler said it may help with Workers Comp claims.

Ben asked about the facility being in need of an upgrade. Jack said they are not going to recycle there anymore. They will still have everything sent to their facility and then they will sell it. Kimble won the bid for this, but then they gave it to Greenstar. Since this happened, Greenstar has been bought by another big company, possibly Waste Management. Last time Aurora bid, it would have been cheaper to privatize with Kimble. Ben asked if the County will offer an Opting out option to the municipalities. Jack said it is in the 90 day plan that you can if it doesn't affect the rest of the County.

Paul asked what it would take to put everything back into the plan that was put together at Maplewood. Jack said if 26% of the representation of the County vote the plan down (Councils and Boards of Trustees), then it says that EPA will run it. The EPA will likely make then put the plan back to how the group at Maplewood wanted it. He also felt the EPA would allow privatization. The Mayor asked if it could be vetoed. Jack said Kent can veto and the Commissioners can veto. Jack said if 26% vote it down, it can't be vetoed.

Jack said Greenstar, Kimble and Runkee are all companies that are doing a great job at recycling. Kimble trucks even run on natural gas which costs half of what diesel costs. Jack said there is money available (the grant matching money) to accommodate a warehouse at Portage County Solid Waste.

The Mayor said if we negotiate this with our trash pickup, it could save us truck traffic on our roads and save the residents money. She got a few verbal quotes and it would be cheaper for our residents to put the trash out and recycling at the same time to be picked up by one company. The County would still get the tipping fee without the worry of vehicles, maintenance, etc.

Discussion of Water and Sewer Tap In Fees:

The Mayor said we currently have a tap-in fee that is used for tap in's as well as reconnections. Does Council want to change this fee? With a reconnection, the pipes are already in place, just capped off. A sewer tap in is currently \$5,770 plus a \$200 permit fee, or just under \$6,000. A water tap in fee is based on the size of the line. A ¾ inch line is \$2,100, a 1 inch line is \$2,800 etc.

For residential water, Paul said if they have galvanized lines, they should be changed to copper from the cap in to the main before reconnecting. Bill said we would need to have it inspected as well. Ben suggested said we would charge a flat fee for the inspection. Ben and Paul thought \$250 for the inspection would cover it. The reconnection fee would be \$250 as well, providing the owner pays the expense of changing the pipes to copper. There must be a check valve.

For sewer, from where it is capped off, it must be filmed at the owner's expense, then the same \$250 inspection and reconnection fee. The owner is also required to bring pipes to current code if necessary.

For commercial (not industrial) water reconnections that have a one inch or less pipe, the reconnection fee and inspection fee would be \$250 each, the same as residential. If the pipes are 1 ¼ inch or larger, the inspection fee and reconnection fee would be \$400 each.

For sewer commercial (not industrial) reconnections the inspection fee would be \$400 and the reconnection would be \$400. The business owner would be required to run a camera just like residential sewer. Industrial can be discussed later. Ben felt the residential and commercial charges should be the same. We will ask Michele to write up legislation for the coming Council meeting.

Adjourned at 8:19 P.M. by Bill Zoller, seconded by Ben Prescott. All ayes on vote.

Linda Clark, Mayor

Jenny August, Clerk-Treasurer