Special Recycling Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2024

Woodland Township Hall

Minutes

Meeting Attendees: Chair Gene Janikula, Dan Domjahn, Barry Pawelk, Paula LaVigne and Julie Marquardt.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Janikula. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The Board was introduced to the audience by Janikula.

The motion to approve the agenda was made. MMS Domjahn, Pawelk. MCU

Special Guest

Janikula introduced a special guest, Jacob Wagaman from Wright County Environmental Services. He gave a presentation of SCORE Funding along with the recycling/compost facility located north of Buffalo.

SCORE Funding:

* Select Committee on Recycling and Environment.
* The money comes from the State. The state funding is reducing landfill supplies and decrease garbage.
* The funding is based on population. Population increases then funding increases.
* Currently there is a 25% match from Wright County.
* In 2023 38,000 tons of 91,000 tons of garbage was recycled.
* By 2030 the goal for Wright County is 41.67% of the trash will be recycled. The current goal Is 35%. If we are lumped into the 7-metro county area it will be 70%. As of right now we are good.
* If we don’t’ meet the 35% goal the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will step in and direct the funds and give guidance to meet the goal.

Woodland Township Data:

* Currently there are 429 households and 58% of the residents recycle. Most townships are closer to 78%.

Ordinance from Wright County

* In September the County required haulers to recycle. To have a bin in front of every house. They were met with resistance from haulers. The largest hauler said they’d pull all their trucks off the road.
* The only requirement is haulers need to provide recycling.

If we stop our recycling contract, we don’t need to take recycling. Other counties have written it to require recycling.

We do need to provide the opportunity for residents to recycle. County Road 37 is an example of an opportunity for residents to recycle.

Currently the Wright County Compost has 16 yd roll off for $3,852/year. The hauler is LRS. Residents can drop off. They have weekly pick up on CO RD 37. There is no requirement to enter into a contract with the county.

115.a.94: Organized collect-county may by ordinance require townships to recycle. It would need to be passed by ordinance. Wright County isn’t doing this now or currently. They will though if the percentage decreases.

The current funding of SCORE is $536,775.00 with county match included. Quarterly $160,000, that is 30% of it paying for recycling.

Why the cuts?

* The new facility-cost of the new facility isn’t being paid for by general funds. It will cost 4.6 million. Some of the SCORE funds need to pay for it.
* The funds need to be used for education-newsletter-this will equal out to $25,000. It will be a quarterly newsletter
* MPCA met at a special meeting with Wright County. They looked at the budget. Quarterly recycling reimbursement is not good practice. Wright County is one of the last ones to do so.
* When the County licensed haulers that gave the County more accurate numbers. They provide a better report and reimbursement isn’t increasing recycling.

**Questions from the Audience:**

Larry DeRoiser from Stockholm Township: Is CO RD 37 still in operation?

* + It is still in operation. It was built at a sorting facility in 1992. It sorted garbage and recycling it has failed. In 2000 it was changed to hazardous materials, tires and electronics. April through November they operate outside. The other months inside at 52 degrees.
* Why jump into another facility that we know nothing about and cut funding?
  + In my opinion it will help. They will take Styrofoam, car seats and cooking oil to name a few. Recycling needs to be at centralized, local and convenient location.
  + CO RD 37 dumpster is currently $3,800/year. For $300 month 16 yard dumpster.
  + The County currently bales cardboard. They don’t put into roll offs. If they did it would 8-10,000 a year.
  + CO RD 37 is a single sort facility. Cardboard does need to be removed. An appointment is needed for a few items-paints, stains, tv, appliances, tires and electronics. It costs $27,000 to ship hazardous waste three times a year.
  + Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and the 2nd and 3rd Saturday from 8-5.
  + Construction hasn’t started on the new facility. It will open in 2026.

D. Domjahn: Does wet cardboard, beer-soaked items, etc. get recycled? What gets thrown out?

* Wet cardboard gets thrown out. Anything soiled gets thrown out. Glass, paper and tin get recycled. Sauk Rapids is his experience. Most plastics get thrown. They don’t accept most plastics.

M. Kaczmarek: What is the legal definition of convenient?

* No definition for convenient. So, you can send it to the CO RD 37 center

D. Paulson: Who pays the environment fee?

* The SCORE fund comes back to the state and then to the counties.

D. Domjahn: Republic’s information doesn’t match with yours.

* I worked in the industry and most recycling doesn’t get recycled. No plastic bags allowed

MEETING

Domjahn reported the following information about Woodland Township and our curbside recycling.

* Recyclables can’t be bagged-they need to be lose!
* Empty, cleaned and dried

**Statistics**

Currently 258 households recycle in Woodland Township that is 60% of our residents. In the past year we have increased recycling by 6 additional residents! We recycle twice a month.

The county needs 35% of the residents to recycle by 2030. If we are classified one of the metro counties it could be as high as 70%.

**Cost**

Residents’ Cost

Current Special Assessment $35/year

Township Cost

2024: 73.92/resident for a year. We currently are in our third year of a three year contract. Our contract ends in April of 2025. A new contract will be negotiated at the beginning of 2025. Special Assessments are due Monday, December 2.

Woodland Township pays $38.92/resident for curbside recycling. For a total of $16,735.60 for 2024.

Total Cost for the Township is $31,785.56 for the year

Domjahn has contacted Mumfords. He has called 4 times. He is told by the office assistant they will return his phone call, but it hasn’t been. David Glessing from Victor Township they are having the same issue.

Public Comment

Why is Republic raising rates?

They don’t use their facility in Delano. Rising labor costs.

What does Delano do?

Wagaman: it is a drop site-garbage, waste, couch, etc

Move recycling to once a month instead of twice a week?

Domjahn: Struggle for families

Janikula: Too much recycling

B. Janikula likes the convenience of it at her curbside. She is willing to pay $73.92 for next year to have it.

L. Borrell: It is worth it.

K. Reinert: Keep it

Patti Borrell: Don’t have it-no recycling. They won’t do it.

D. Paulson: Why not longer than a three year contract? Then it won’t go up every year.

Maybe a card that stresses recycling information

M. Young: Not much is being recycled. Mixed residential recycling isn’t the answer. No one is making money in recycling. It isn’t really getting recycled. It should be put into the garbage.

Borrell: We need to get better at recycling. As a community we need to do our best. It will go into the landfill. The recyclers are getting better. We need to inform township residents to get better.

J. Wagaman: MN is the highest state of recycling. The whole truck doesn’t get thrown out.

What about the incinerator? Companies buy steam from there.   
 J. Wagaman: 0% chance. The zoning would be the problem

D. Erickson: Elk River shut down their garbage burner. We would need 2 bins if we didn’t recycle. The township needs to promote recycling especially with new residents.

Do we need to pay? Yes, we can’t discriminate. It isn’t cost efficient for different haulers to the do the same route.

D. Paulson: We should lock into a longer contract. It would be less headaches. Would we need to lock into a price?

T. Janikula: How much per month for trash? $25-$30 a month for trash.

M. Kaczmarek: How many want recycling? (Hands raised)

How many don’t? (5 hands)

No ordinance change until changes county wide. More education and building first. The new facility will only be to drop off. No trucks.

Chairman Janikula called the meeting at 8:07. MMS Domjahn, Pawelk to adjourn. MCU.

Respectfully submitted by,

Julie Marquardt