

**MINUTES OF THE
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006

At a meeting of the **Planning and Economic Development Committee**, held Tuesday, March 14, 2006, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mt. Clemens, the following members were present:

Vosburg-Chair, Brown, DeSaele, DiMaria, Doherty, Duzyj, Gibson, Gielegem, Lund, McCarthy, Rengert, Slinde and White (ex-officio).

Absent and excused was Hill.

Also Present:

Commissioner Brandenburg
Commissioner Brdak
Commissioner Kennard
Commissioner Revoir
Commissioner Sauger
Commissioner Switalski
Commissioner Szczepanski
David Diegel, Director, Finance Department
George Brumbaugh, Director, Corporation Counsel
James Meyerand, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Jill Smith, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Stephen Cassin, Executive Director, Planning and Economic Development Dept.
Rhonda Deriemaecker, Director of Board Services
Phil Frame, Director, Office of Public Affairs
John Gardner, Lenox Township Supervisor
Tom Horton, Waste Management
Chad Selweski, Reporter, The Macomb Daily
Jim Lynch, Reporter, The Detroit News
Steve Neavling, Reporter, The Detroit Free Press

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Vosburg called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Lund, supported by Brown, to adopt the agenda, as presented. **The Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Rengert, to approve the January 17 and February 7, 2006 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Carl Etue, 38871 Red Oaks Drive, Clinton Township

Mr. Etue picked up literature placed on the table in the Board Room and inquired if he could speak at the end of this meeting to say if he agrees or disagrees with it.

Diane Cangelosi, 36643 Tessens, Clinton Township

Ms. Cangelosi spoke in opposition to the trash expansion of the landfill.

Angele Smith (a/k/a Nikki Smith), 35960 Kelly Road, Clinton Township

Ms. Smith spoke against having Canada dump their trash in Macomb County.

Christy McGillivray, 19 Hollywood Court, Mount Clemens

Ms. McGillivray is the Lake St. Clair community organizer for Clean Water Action. She felt there should be absolutely no expansion of the Pine Tree Acres landfill until there is a concrete date as to when the trucks will stop.

Brad VanGuilder, 726 Madison Place, Ann Arbor

Mr. VanGuilder was representing the Ecology Center and the Don't Trash Michigan campaign. He distributed and overviewed a handout. He felt the County Host Agreement under consideration is flawed in two basic ways. He pointed out that the annual air capacity calculations is a major problem.

John Gardner, 61900 Omo Road, Lenox Township

Mr. Gardner has been the Lenox Township Supervisor since the landfill opened. He applauded any efforts that the Board can make to reduce the Canadian trash. He spoke about the footprint of the landfill that Lenox Township identified in 1999. He recalled Lenox Township tried to fight the expansion and lost. At the local level, you cannot stop an expansion, if the proper documents are filed, timing is correct, and all the documentation is correct, the landfill will expand. At the state level, they have not been able to do that.

Mickey Ludeman, 59400 Frost Road, Lenox Township

Ms. Ludeman lives down the road from the landfill. She spoke about the stench in the air. Trucks are waiting well before the landfill opens. She has been on that site and has videotaped. She questioned medical trash. She asked for Commissioners help to stop the hundreds and hundreds of trucks that are coming in.

Mark Wrosch, 451 Esplanade, Mount Clemens

Mr. Wrosch felt better ways are needed to dispose of trash. There is a pilot plant in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania that takes any carbon-based matter and through the process of heat, pressure, and water it breaks it down and produces a burnable fuel.

Roger Holtslander, 38015 Saint Tropez Drive, Clinton Township

Mr. Holtslander thought the agreement was not perfect, but at least the County will make some money and there is a limit at some point. His big fear is that if Commissioners do nothing, the County will be left with no dumping ground for our own trash.

Sarah Roberts, 33374 Jefferson Avenue, St. Clair Shores

Ms. Roberts heard on Michigan Public Radio this morning, that Governor Granholm signed a ban on the importation on Canadian trash, pending action from Congress. She asked that Commissioners consider the quality of life of the residents in Lenox Township and in Macomb County and not approve the expansion of the landfill.

Eric Douglas, 38671 Byriver, Clinton Township

Mr. Douglas expressed concern that the people of Macomb County absolutely do not want the expanded landfill.

Lynn Spicer, 45716 Jefferson, Chesterfield Township

Ms. Spicer asked that Commissioners vote no on expanding the landfill.

APPROVE TO ENTER INTO COUNTY HOST AGREEMENT WITH WASTE

MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RENGERT, SUPPORTED BY BROWN, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE COUNTY HOST AGREEMENT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT. THE HOST AGREEMENT WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON THE SOLID WASTE PLANNING COMMITTEE AMENDING THE 1999 SOLID WASTE PLAN INCLUDING THE RECOGNITION OF AN ADDITIONAL 167 ACRES OF THE 832 ACRES IN THE CURRENT LENOX HOST AGREEMENT OF 1997.

Commissioner Rengert referred to several pieces of literature that was distributed and gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Macomb County Solid Waste Proposal – County Host Agreement & Solid Waste Plan Amendment." Key topics covered included: History: 1999 Plan/2003 Goal; Problem with 1999 Plan; Host Agreement Proposal; Solid Waste Plan Amendment – Recognition of Area within Local Host Agreement; Out-of-State Dumping Fee; Agreement: Comparison; Questions/Answers; Procedure – Overview.

The Agreement would: 1) Limit the importation of Canadian waste to 25% of the future capacity; 2) Guarantee a minimal 25 year capacity for Macomb County waste; 3) Assess a fee on out-of-state trash providing a funding mechanism for activities such as recycling, waste reduction, and land and water stewardship programs.

The County Host Agreement would be contingent on the Solid Waste Planning Committee amending the 1999 Solid Waste Plan, including recognition of an additional 167 acres of the 832 acres in the current Lenox Township Host Agreement of 1997. Any recommendation to amend the plan would require approve by two-thirds of the Macomb County communities, as well as approval by the DEQ.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the length of this agreement (25 years) and it not addressing the date as to when the 350 trucks a day are going to stop and when there will actually be a reduction in Canadian waste. Commissioners expressed concern that there is only six years capacity left and that the 25-year capacity footprint information will be self-reported. It was noted that Waste Management was not named in the agreement, it only named Pine Tree Acres. It was felt that there should be an opening clause in the agreement like every five years, rather than deal with a 25-year contract. The question was asked if this agreement would supercede anything that the federal or state government might propose. Questions arose as to air space and calculations. Inquiry was made as to the current capacity of the footprint of the landfill held by Canadian trash. It was felt that the .55 cents per ton fee should be renegotiated to a higher price.

MOTION

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by McCarthy, to **refer** this agenda item to a regular Full Board meeting with a special agenda (date and time to be set by Board Chair White) in order to formulate proposed amendments to this agreement.

Commissioner McCarthy hoped that those Commissioners that have serious questions could get them to Corporation Counsel, so they can be resolved.

Commissioner Slinde suggested that Commissioners who have ideas, suggestions or questions should have them in writing prior to the Full Board meeting.

A roll call vote was taken on the **motion to refer** as follows:

Voting Yes were Brown, DeSaele, DiMaria, Doherty, Duzyj, Gibson, Gielegem, Lund, McCarthy, Rengert, Slinde and Vosburg. There were 12 "Yes" votes.

The Motion Carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Carl Etue, 38871 Red Oaks Drive, Clinton Township

Mr. Etue inquired as to how much of the landfill is filled with Canadian trash as it presently stands.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by McCarthy, to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

The Motion Carried.

Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter