

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

March 22, 1990

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Gary Hansen (Chair), Roger Buchanan, Tom DeJardin and Judy Wyers

Committee Members Absent: Larry Bauer (V. Chair)

Chair Hansen called the special meeting continued from the March 20, 1990, meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

1. Discussion on FY 1990-91 Solid Waste Department Budget and Program and Project Priorities

Bob Martin, Director of Solid Waste, said there were ten FY 1990-91 priority items for the Solid Waste Department and five policy issues were spread among the line items.

Mr. Martin said all Metro solid waste facilities would go to a scale-weight system for self-haul when the St. Johns Landfill closed and all customers would be charged by weight.

Mr. Martin said Metro staff would operate and staff household hazardous waste (HHW) depots at Metro facilities and that staff could be used to meet statutory and contractual requirements.

Mr. Martin said the Engineering Division budget would include an assessment of special waste and where it was handled. He said the study was necessary because Metro no longer had a regional landfill within its jurisdiction and special waste was partially the generator's problem.

Mr. Martin said because the Solid Waste Committee amended Ordinance No. 90-337 March 12, 1990, to eliminate the user fee on wastes received at franchised processing centers that accomplish materials recovery and recycling as a primary operation, it was necessary to increase the solid waste rate \$.30 per ton. He said it would mean \$351,000 less in revenue if the rate was not raised. He said during the budget process various issues would alter the rate one way or another. He said when final changes were known the rate could be determined or the rate would have to be raised to cover expenses.

Mr. Martin said since the budget was originally prepared, staff received new information from R.W. Beck and Associates (RWB) and \$207,000 more was needed for the Solid Waste Renewal and Replacement Account. He said he was not prepared at this meeting to recommend how to raise the necessary funds but said it could be achieved through fund transfers or from the Contingency Fund.

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Mr. Martin reviewed the ten line items. He said they were not necessarily the most important, but because they were new, required explanation.

Mr. Martin said the staff proposal for a line item of \$681,000 in grants to local jurisdictions to implement the local portion of the Waste Reduction Plan (WRP) was controversial but mandated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Chair Hansen asked how Metro would raise necessary funding. Mr. Martin said staff calculated how much tonnage would be recovered through curbside collection and the funds saved because that waste would not have to be transported to, or disposed of at, the Arlington Landfill. Debbie Gorham, Waste Reduction Manager, concurred with Mr. Martin and said the funding should be thought of as an investment alternative. Mr. Martin said paying in advance for curbside programs would result in savings at a later date.

Mr. Martin said staff proposed a line item of \$33,000, available to local jurisdictions who sponsored clean-up events to defer half their disposal costs, but only if those events advocated recycling, source-separation, and the use of thrifts.

Mr. Martin said staff proposed a line item of \$7,500 to allow Metro to offer grants to jurisdictions which cleaned up illegal dumping that had already occurred on public property.

Mr. Martin said staff proposed a line item of \$75,000 for a study to evaluate methane gas recovery from the St. Johns Landfill after closure. He said previous work done five years ago concluded gas collection was not feasible. He said nationally there was a trend towards gas collection. He said the \$75,000 would be used for the study in phases.

Mr. Martin said staff proposed a line item of \$6,000 to evaluate rate incentives for thrifts.

Mr. Martin said staff proposed a line item of \$95,000; \$45,000 for monitoring and \$50,000 for enforcement, for a flow control study to track waste through professional services and gather the data necessary to take effective action if generators were not authorized to go outside the region.

Mr. Martin said staff proposed a line item increase for Recycling Information Center (RIC) staffing because the RIC had experienced a massive increase in calls over the past year. He said calls had increased to 40,000 this year from 30,000 last year. He said the RIC computer system also required upgrading. He said RIC was administered by the Public Affairs Department but in the Solid Waste Department budget.

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Mr. Martin said staff proposed a line item for matching grants to local jurisdictions for both curbside and multi-family containers. He noted Metro had matched funds with Clackamas County for curbside container program and Metro wished to expand to other portions of region. He noted the City of Portland was awarded \$20,000 for multi-family housing containers to increase the frequency of such programs. Chair Hansen asked how much funding was necessary to cover the region. Mr. Martin said \$750,000 was needed and the issues involved timing also. He noted Clackamas County did a great deal of advance work with franchised haulers which then made it timely for Metro to provide funding. He said parts of the region did not have franchised haulers which made such programs difficult to implement. Chair Hansen asked if anticipation of funding would give jurisdictions the incentive to implement programs. Mr. Martin said Washington County could be next and then Multnomah County. He noted local jurisdictions must match the funds provided.

Mr. Martin said staff proposed an increased line item of \$10,000 for Metro's "Buy Recycled" 1990 conference. He said last year's conference was extremely successful, attracted vendors and other jurisdictions, and improved the possibilities for recycled paper. He said the next conference would emphasize recycled tires and other items. Councilor DeJardin asked how much was spent on the conference last year. Mr. Martin said \$5,500 was spent. Councilor Wyers hoped to see a Metro-sponsored conference on waste reduction.

Mr. Martin said staff proposed a line item of \$50,000 for a records management system. He said such a system was essential to Solid Waste Department organization.

Councilor DeJardin asked if any of the line items staff proposed were superfluous or unnecessary. Mr. Martin said staff's requests were not superfluous, but some were discretionary, such as the Household Hazardous Waste Days scheduled for fall and spring. He said the fall date could be eliminated because by spring the permanent depots required by law would be installed at solid waste facilities. He said Metro was required by law to hold one event. He preferred to hold both events because they were opportunities to transmit information to the public. Councilor DeJardin asked if any of the discretionary items could be postponed to the next fiscal year.

Chair Hansen asked if funds were available for cloth diaper promotion for new parents. Joan Saroka, Public Information Supervisor, said funds necessary for such promotion had not been established. She said if necessary funding was under \$5,000 the promotion could be done immediately and if over \$5,000, funds had to be added. She said funds allocated for Metro's contract with Coates Advertising could be used.

Chair Hansen asked Mr. Martin if the Budget Committee March 19 asked for clarification on the Solid Waste Department budget. Mr. Martin said the

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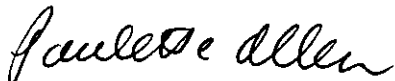
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meeting was a review of organization and operations only and staff received no input or questions. He noted Council staff prepared a memorandum with questions staff would answer when the Budget Committee reviewed the Solid Waste budget again. Councilor Wyers noted the Budget Committee would look at the whole budget and any dramatic increases in budget and staffing. Chair Hansen said the Budget Committee should give the Solid Waste Committee direction on budget policy. Councilor Wyers said it was early in the budget process.

Chair Hansen stated the Solid Waste Committee was comfortable with the Solid Waste budget at this time. Councilor Wyers again noted it was early in the budget process and the Budget Committee had sufficient time for recommendations. Councilor DeJardin concurred with Councilor Wyers and said he was satisfied with the Solid Waste budget at this time but told staff to think of alternatives in case cuts were made. He asked them to think about what programs/projects could be deferred to FY 1991-92. Mr. Martin said any changes in expenditures or revenues impacted each other. He said staff prepared the budget for FY 1990-91 to hold the line. He noted staff increases were requested for necessary gate house personnel as well as HHW depots mandated by state law. He said staff proposed to continue the Metro East Construction Coordinator and said all other staffing was stable.

Chair Hansen adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen
Committee Clerk
SWC90.081