

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION –JANUARY 20, 2022**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 4:00p.m., at the Commissioner’s Board Room at 60 E Court Street.

Members Present

Tony Brown, Chairman; David N. Walker, Vice-Chair; Brenda Vaughn; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Terry DePoyster, Public Services Director; Alison Bell, Finance Director

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00pm to discuss the solid waste system.

A copy of the presentation is with the agenda materials. The Solid Waste System is comprised of two main components, Waste Collection and the Waste Enterprise Fund.

The Waste Enterprise Fund is responsible for the scale house, transfer station, recycling program, and landfill post-closure activities. The waste is collected from County, City, and private haulers, and individuals at the transfer station and loaded onto trailers. The trailers are transported by a contracted hauler to the Republic Industries-owned landfill in Caldwell County.

The scale house operator weighs vehicles coming into the transfer station facility. There is only one set of scales, so vehicles must come in and out on the same set of scales. Most commercial/industrial haulers have accounts that are billed by the Finance Dept. All others pay cash at the window.

The department collects recyclables at the convenience centers as well as from the City’s curbside program. The recyclables are hauled to Republic Industries’ Material Recovery Facility in Conover for further sorting and processing.

The landfill closed approximately around 1994. The County is required to maintain the grounds and monitor the methane.

The total FY2022 operating expense of the solid waste system is \$3,745,213 with a total of \$2,026,963 originating within the General Fund.

The current tipping/scale house fee is \$60 a ton, which covers industrial/commercial waste, and construction and demolition waste. Private individuals are charged \$5 a vehicle for the disposal of normal household waste at the scale. This fee is flat regardless of the weight. There is no charge to haulers that are disposing of bagged household waste.

Discussion was held on construction workers hauling construction and demolition. Consensus was to explore having a fee added when getting a building permit for hauling waste.

Most counties have an availability fee to pay for the solid waste services. Those fees are collected on a tax bill and pass directly to the waste fund. Availability fees ranged from \$72-\$180. At least one county implemented a service district tax to support their solid waste system.

Changes must be made to comply with Local Government Commission (LGC) directives. Options are tipping fee increases, per vehicle charge increase, or availability fees.

Discussion was held on out of county residents using the local convenience centers, and no charge for private haulers.

Consensus was to have more information about how systems in other counties are operated and financed. Mr. Wooten will meet with staff and come up with recommendations in the next 30 days.

Mr. Wooten reminded the Board of their regular meeting at DSS at 11:30am, Monday, January 24th. Also, there will be an insurance workshop on Monday, January 31st, at 11:30 at 60 East Court St.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to adjourn at 5:18pm, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman