

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Tuesday, October 24, 1989

9:00 a.m. Public Hearing - Remaining 1990 Solid Waste Rates/Operating Hours at Inman Landfill.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 24, 1989, with Commissioners Dave Rohrer, Ruth Wylie and W. W. Vaux present.

PUBLIC HEARING - REMAINING 1990 SOLID WASTE RATES/OPERATING HOURS AT INMAN LANDFILL.

Chairman Rohrer waiving the reading of the Notice of Public Hearing, as published in The Skagit Argus on October 10 and 17, 1989.

Mark Spahr, Public Works Director, opened the discussion by reviewing a proposed resolution establishing 1990 solid waste rates, both those that were previously passed, and those that remain unresolved.

He stated that last month the Board approved a \$47.00 tipping fee for commercial and municipal solid waste, as well as rates for small loads to Inman Landfill and compactor sites. Mr. Spahr noted that the following rates have yet to be determined:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUGGESTED RATE (EXEMPT)</u>
Small loads delivered to incinerator.....	7.00 per load
Tires.....	(Up to four are accepted if included in a pick up load. If an entire load of tires, they are accepted only at the landfill at the rates of \$3.00 to \$60.00 each unsplit or \$47.00 per ton split.
Demolition/Industrial Wastes.....	\$57.00 per ton
Contaminated Soil.....	\$10/ton low risk \$45/ton medium risk \$70/ton high risk
Grease (not containing sewage).....	\$12.00 per ton
Asbestos Material.....	\$100.00 per ton
Catalyst.....	\$100.00 per ton
Roadside Litter (collected by non-profit group on County roads only).....	no charge
Clean, Separated Recyclables.....	no charge
Seeds, Bulbs, Sawdust.....	\$10.00 per ton
Compactor Box Sites.....	\$6.00 per use *
Septage/Leachate (collected at County's Burlington facility)... for informational purposes)	(included only
Out-of-County Wastes (from specially designated areas only)....	\$70.50 per ton + (\$73.74 non-exempt)

* Mr. Spahr explained that, although the Board agreed to raise the use price of the compactor boxes to \$7.00 at their last discussion, it has been discovered that the present compactor boxes' change compartments will accept no more than \$6.35; therefore, it is being recommended that the compactor box rate be established at \$6.00, while the small load price be established at \$7.00.

+ Regarding the out-of-county waste rates, the per ton rate would apply only to a small stretch of SR 20 near Newhalem, which travels outside the boundaries of Skagit County for a short distance and then returns to the County. This route is collected by a private hauler. The proposed rate reflects a 1.5 times surcharge.

Don Bockelman of Day Creek asked questions regarding tire disposal. He felt that by charging \$60.00 each for disposal of large off-road tires, it would encourage illegal disposal methods.

Bill Ness, Solid Waste/Environmental Engineer, noted that this charge is a continuation of the same rate charged in 1988 and 1989.

Mr. Bockelman felt it was outrageous to charge \$60.00 for large tires and \$100.00 for contaminated wastes, and asked further questions regarding disposal of contaminated soil.

Mr. Spahr responded by stating that Skagit County would rely on the Skagit County Health Department and Department of Ecology to determine the risk factors for each individual case of petroleum contaminated soil. He stated that Skagit County would require an evaluation by a geologist or other specialist, at the cost of the soil owner, before agreeing to dispose of any petroleum contaminated soil. He explained each category in "layman's" terms.

Margaret Cross, a concerned citizen, asked, if rototilling the contaminated soil is necessary, will the \$70.00 per ton for high risk soil be sufficient to cover the costs. Mr. Ness stated that the rate is a compromise to encourage proper disposal of contaminated soils in areas out of the public's contact.

Mr. Spahr stated that because of recent federal legislation regarding underground storage tanks, the County may expect an increase in the amount of petroleum contaminated soil in the future. If needed, he stated, the rates could be raised at a later date.

Ken Skeed, a Bayview resident, asked where reports on leaking tanks could be obtained, to which Mr. Spahr responded that the Department of Ecology's underground storage tank unit could provide a computer report of the results of a survey done on storage tanks. Commissioner Vaux pointed out that testing of soil around underground storage tanks may be occurring more frequently now during the sale of property containing tanks, or when discrepancies in tank volume are discovered.

Commissioner Vaux asked what the result of a change in the Board's decision regarding compactor box charges would be. Mr. Ness responded that he felt \$280.00 per month would be lost, but would be recouped in other areas.

Debbie Aldrich, another concerned citizen, asked how much asbestos is received at the incinerator. Mr. Spahr responded that theoretically none is received; however, some may unknowingly be incinerated in small quantities through disposal of brake shoes, small amounts of ceiling tile and insulation. He stated that the rates for asbestos disposal refers only to landfilling, and that most asbestos comes from the refineries in Anacortes.

Terry Knudsen of Rural Sanitation objected to the new resolution proposed by the Public Works Department, stating that sanitation haulers had not been notified of all the items listed on today's resolution and have had no time to prepare. Also, persons affected by some of the rate increases are not present, as they were not aware they would be discussed. He used demolition wastes as an example.

Bill Ness pointed out that in some counties demolition waste disposal is fixed at \$300.00 per ton.

Commissioner Vaux agreed with Mr. Knudsen that it would be impossible to make a decision on rates without a breakdown of amounts received of each item and the revenues generated.

Mr. Knudsen pointed out that it will require 90 days to file a rate increase with the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission in order to implement a rate increase on January 1, 1990. He felt he should have received advanced copies of the proposed resolution. Further, he stated that his bills do not reflect a breakdown in tonnage, but just show the dollar amount owed.

The Board directed Mr. Ness to look into the possibility of providing a tonnage breakdown of individual materials presented by each hauler.

Debbie Aldrich asked if the leachate from the landfill is tested for asbestos contamination. Mr. Ness responded that we do not specifically test for asbestos. He stated that asbestos is a carcinogen in its friable form, which is a dust state. He stated that if a 1% contamination rate is identified, the County must follow the stipulations of the Dangerous Waste Regulations; however, if the asbestos is in a dampened state, such as occurs in leachate, then the Dangerous Waste Regulations no longer apply and the material falls under the purview of the Northwest Air Pollution Authority.

Margaret Cross pointed out that if the bags filled with asbestos are dumped and then run over by compactors at the landfill, the bags will break and release asbestos dust into the atmosphere. Chairman Rohrer refuted this allocation, stating that he has observed the landfill attendants at work and this is not done. Moreover, he stated, the attendants would not risk their own health by exposing themselves in this manner.

Mr. Spahr explained that asbestos is not carcinogenic unless it is inhaled. When in rock form, it is not a danger to the public health. He again stated that it is possible to test for asbestos in leachate, but that it is not mandated.

Ken Skeed asked if, in summer when the soils at the landfill might become dry, is the area kept damp to prevent the public from breathing in the dry soil in

the air. Ken Bechtel, a landfill worker, stated that the landfill is covered with fresh soil daily.

Don Bockelman stated that an Arlington, Oregon, facility is approved to accept and dispose of hazardous wastes. He asked if Skagit County has an approved facility, as it does receive hazardous wastes.

Mr. Ness stated that, if Mr. Bockelman is referring to asbestos in his statement, it is no longer designated as a hazardous waste. Mr. Spahr stated that Skagit County does not have an approved facility, and does not knowingly receive hazardous wastes.

Answering a question from Ms. Cross, Denny Klinger, a landfill worker, stated that the policy for processing of asbestos is to accept no material that is not double bagged, and to cover the material with at least two feet of clean soil before compacting. Ms. Cross persisted in stating that this would permit leaching of asbestos into the water table.

Mr. Spahr explained that leachate is soluble in water, whereas asbestos is not. The likelihood of a small particle of asbestos being able to travel through the pit liner of pea gravel and then into the holding pond is slim, and those water systems utilizing the Skagit River, such as the City of Anacortes, treat the water prior to use in the public water system. Mr. Spahr stated that he has made a note to test the leachate as soon as possible, but has not done so in the past because it has not been required.

At this point, Chairman Rohrer asked that the discussion return to the original purpose for which it was called; the fixing of solid waste rates.

Commissioner Wylie asked about the acceptance of grease contaminated with septage. Mr. Spahr answered that where restaurants have grease traps to separate their cooking grease from their septage and do not wish to have the grease reprocessed, it is accepted by Skagit County for disposal. Where no separation occurs and the grease is contaminated with septage, it is accepted neither at the landfill or at the incinerator. Mr. Spahr was unaware of any way to legally dispose of this material, and stated that the Skagit County Health Department is working with local restaurants to encourage the separation of grease from septage.

The Board briefly discussed the dumping of roadside litter. It was established that the Department of Ecology dumps litter sacs about one time per month, and that the litter comes from State roads which may or may not fall entirely within Skagit County. The litter is typically a small amount each month.

The Board further discussed the number of uses of the compactor boxes per month, and the estimate was revised to approximately 630 times per month.

Debbie Aldrich asked if the Board was aware of a facility in Eastern Washington that recycles tires. As the Board was not, she offered to share the information she has.

Louis Nutter remarked that the facility is actually located in Portland, Oregon, and takes tires from local wrecking yards to be shredded and sold as bunker fuel. Ms. Aldrich maintained that the Eastern Washington facility is a separate enterprise that performs recycling only.

The Board discussed with the audience the reasons for high rates for tire disposal. Commissioner Vaux explained that Skagit County would rather not take tires and wishes to use rates to encourage recycling or at least splitting of tires. One audience member suggested that this might lead voters to believe that a tire burner is needed in Skagit County. She pointed out that we accept hazardous wastes more easily than tires.

Denny Klinger explained that whole tires, because of the air pockets contained within the walls, constantly float to the top of the landfill, whereas split tires can be easily compacted.

Discussion ensued on hauling of tires elsewhere for recycling. Terry Knudsen of Rural Sanitation pointed out that in the past, costs for landfilling or hauling to recyclers have been about the same; however, if the tire rate is raised, it may turn out to be cheaper to recycle the tires. The Board agreed that, if feasible, tires could be hauled to a recycler.

In answer to Ken Skeed's question, Ron Audette, a landfill employee, stated that about one delivery of asbestos per month is received at the landfill.

The Board discussed with Mr. Knudsen the disposal of concrete in private landfills. Mr. Ness explained that inert wastes, by law, can be disposed of in private landfills, and that the Health Department has designated some private landfills in Skagit County, although he was unable to identify any at this time. Discussion ensued on whether a resolution passed by the Board prohibited Mr. Knudsen from using private landfills to dispose of concrete. The Board gave Mr. Knudsen permission to do so.

Debbie Aldrich pointed out, for the information of the Board, that as a result of a meeting she attended, the Department of Ecology is looking for toxic waste sites which they intend to help clean up. She could identify none in Skagit County, but stated that comments could be directed to that agency.

Mr. Spahr confirmed that the Board would like a list of the quantities expected for each category of solid waste. He distributed copies of today's proposed resolution to the audience. He requested two weeks to compile the requested information.

Commissioner Vaux indicated that only one week could be allowed because of the need to afford franchise holders their 90 day period for review of rate increases by the State Department of Utilities and Transportation. Commissioner Vaux motioned to continue the public hearing to Monday, October 30, 1989, at 8:30 am. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Vaux further directed the Public Works Department to include expected revenues from each category of solid waste in their next report to the Board.

The Board then proceeded to the discussion of extended landfill hours. Bill Ness, Solid Waste/Environmental Engineer, presented a proposed resolution, stating that requests have been received to open Inman Landfill earlier in the morning for the convenience of commercial refuse haulers. Mr. Ness stated that currently the landfill is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the summer, and from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the winter.

Mr. Ness stated that the Public Works Department has reviewed the hours of operation, and is recommending that hours of operation be divided into two seasons, winter and summer, with the dividing dates coinciding with Daylight Savings Time and Standard Time changes. During summer season, the landfill would be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. During winter season, the landfill would be open Monday through Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The three landfill attendants who were present indicated that they had taken part in the discussions regarding extension of hours, and are in agreement with the recommendations.

In answer to Commissioner Vaux's question regarding the recommendations, Mr. Ness stated that there is no difference in the total man hours between summer and winter seasons.

Commissioner Wylie questioned why there would be a need to open early on weekends. Mr. Ness responded that the public is not educated to what materials will be accepted at the incinerator and is still bringing refuse that must be re-routed to the landfill. Because the incinerator opens at 8:30 a.m., it would more convenient for the public if the landfill was open at the same time for those who are turned away at the incinerator and told they must transfer their garbage at the landfill. Answering further questions, Mr. Ness stated that there are people who arrive at the incinerator at 8:30 a.m. The landfill attendants also agreed that there are people waiting at the gate on Saturday and Sunday when they arrive.

Commissioner Wylie then confirmed that the changes in hours would result in no economic impact to the County's solid waste budget.

Terry Knudsen of Rural Sanitation felt that the proposed hours would be a terrific improvement in service. He felt it would be very helpful to commercial refuse haulers.

Commissioner Vaux then motioned to adopt the resolution modifying the operating hours of the Inman Landfill, as stated above. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. (Resolution #12263)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

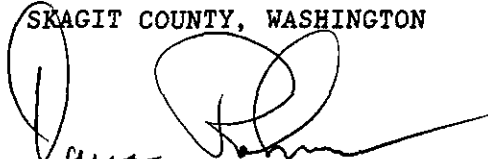
- A. Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve the Record of the Proceedings from Tuesday, October 17, 1989, as submitted. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

- B. The Board approved for signature a Parks and Recreation Department Professional Services Contract with Ross Erickson to coach, score and referee youth basketball; score adult basketball; and referee boys football for compensation of from \$5 to \$10 per game.

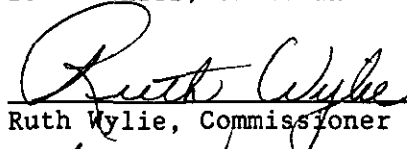
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wylie motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Vaux seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

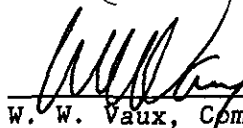
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



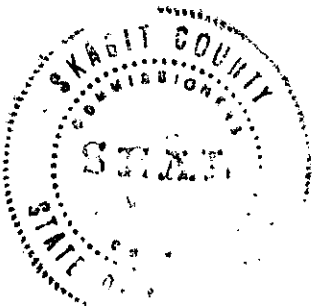
Dave Rohrer, Chairman



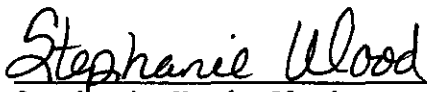
Ruth Wylie, Commissioner



W. W. Vaux, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Stephanie Wood, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners