

**Landfill Committee Meeting  
March 6, 2017, Carter County Courthouse**

**Meeting was called to order** by Commissioner Dietz at 6:00 PM

**Roll call:** Commissioners Acuff, Collins, Dietz, Hill, Miller, Simerly, VonCannon and Ward were present.

**Approval of minutes of previous session and agenda:**

Motion by Miller, seconded by Ward to approve the agenda; motion passed by acclamation.

Motion by Hill, seconded by Collins to approve minutes from previous session; motion passed by acclamation.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Old Business:**

The Committee was given results of a landfill survey on the demolition site. Key points include:

- There is remaining fillable space of 47 vertical feet.
- This survey was conducted to insure that current landfill operations remain within the specified boundaries.
- The next survey will determine the remaining lifespan of the landfill based on volume averages from recent years. This survey will cost an estimated \$2,800.

During discussion initiated by Commissioner VonCannon, Director Lyons stated that Carter County is required to provide processing and disposal for household trash only.

Information requested by Kim Rhea at CTAS has been collected and submitted in order to produce a landfill study for Carter County that will give details of all options post closure of the current landfill.

Patriot Tire will match tire disposal rates currently in place through the tire hub, which will be discontinued on June 30, 2017. This should allow for a smooth transition on July 1, 2017.

Discussion was continued regarding the "free day" requested by Mr. Ed Jordan at the February meeting. Commissioner Dietz shared with the committee her research into a free day at the landfill, and made the following proposal:

- accept tires only, but no tractor tires
- limit the number of tires per household to eight
- utilize volunteers and representative Commissioners to staff these events in each district
- park a collection tub at a school in each district
- advertise the event with radio and print media
- pick a district for a "test run" to determine the total cost to the county, and request that budget committee allocate funds to cover the expense.

Director Lyons informed the committee that it will cost the county \$80 per ton to dispose of tires, which equates to between 35 and 45 tires per ton. Under the plan proposed by Commissioner Dietz, the tires collected would be transported directly to the tire processor from each district. He projected that we could easily see collections of more than 200 tires per district at such an event.

**New Business:**

Under New Business, the Chair recognized Mr. Jerry McDowell, who shared information on Product Recovery Technology International (PRTI), a company that utilizes a European process developed over nine years for the thermal decomposition of tires in an oxygen free environment. Commissioner VonCannon stated that the cost of such a system exceeds \$43 million, and is not feasible for Carter County at this time. McDowell replied that the cost involved would be only transportation expense to PRTI. Further discussion revealed that this also would not work, as the company seems to be maxing out their capacity now, and therefore couldn't handle our tire volume as well. Director Lyons pointed out that transportation would cost more than the state's \$2 disposal fee that comes to the landfill from new tire purchases.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Garland, who was in attendance, expressed a desire to collect scrap metal in addition to tires on the proposed "free days". Mr. Ed Jordan was recognized, since he wasn't present during public comments earlier in the evening. He stated his disappointment in the committee for not acting on his "free day" request. Commissioner Ward addressed Ed Jordan, expressing appreciation for his efforts and recognizing his apparent frustration with the committee's lack of action on "free day" at the landfill. He went on to state that the committee was working diligently to find the best solution. Commissioner Hill expressed his reluctance to commit to anything that would move the landfill to capacity prior to formulating a plan for a way forward after capping the existing site. He went on to propose allowing collected litter to be deposited at the nearest convenience center at no cost for Mr. Jordan's program at such time as he expanded his scope to clean up county road right of ways. Hill pointed out a similar arrangement made with Roan Mountain Rec Foundation for disposal of trash from the community park. Director Lyons estimated the cost of Jordan's proposed "free day" would exceed \$60,000.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Collins, seconded by Miller: The meeting adjourned at 6:40.

submitted by Mike Hill, Secretary

approved \_\_\_\_\_