

January 22, 2008

**SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT**

The Board of Commissioners of the Solid Waste Disposal District met at the County Commission Chambers, 1801 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida, on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. Present were Chairman Sandra L. Bowden, Vice Chairman Wesley S. Davis, and Commissioners Joseph E. Flescher, Peter D. O'Bryan and Gary C. Wheeler. Also present were County Administrator Joseph A. Baird, County Attorney William Collins, II, and Deputy Clerk Maureen Gelfo.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**14.B.1. WORK ORDER NO. 14 TO GEOSYNTEC CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH THE 2008 COMPLIANCE MONITORING & GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Solid Waste Disposal District Managing Director Himanshu Mehta, P.E., reviewed his memorandum of January 14, 2008, and informed the Board that semi-annual and annual reports have to be done on the ground and surface water surrounding the landfill. Additionally, in order to satisfy Title V requirements, an annual Operating Report and Flare Emission Testing Report must be done on an annual basis. Director Mehta asked the Board to authorize funding for the 2008 Compliance Monitoring & General Technical Assistance.

**January 22, 2008**

1

**S.W.D.D.**

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED by Vice Chair Davis, the Board unanimously approved: Work Order No. 14 with GeoSyntec in the amount of \$97,362.00 to provide engineering services related to the 2008 Compliance Monitoring & General Technical Assistance, and authorized the Chairman to execute the same, as recommended in the memorandum of January 14, 2008.

WORK ORDER IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD

**14.B.2. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT CUSTOMER CONVENIENCE CENTERS**

Utilities Director Erik Olson presented this item, as outlined in the memorandum of January 14, 2008. He related that due to the downturn in the economy, staff had been tasked with finding ways to reduce costs in various County Departments. Within that context, staff was charged with putting together a budget associated with the five (5) County-wide Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) Customer Convenience Centers, which are staffed by twenty-three (23) employees.

Director Olson presented two options for the Board to consider: (1) Option A - Maintain current staffing and operations, bearing in mind that Managing Director Himanshu Mehta will continue seeking opportunities to save some monies; and (2) Option B – Seek outside bids to see

**January 22, 2008**

2

**S.W.D.D.**

if the private market can operate more effectively and more efficiently. Director Olson asked the Board for guidance, and noted that if the decision were made to privatize, the service provided would be equal to the existing service.

A lengthy discussion ensued among the Commissioners and Administrator Baird, of which the key points were the following:

- The need to find ways to reduce the County's costs and to obtain bids so that a comparison could be made, and ensuring that said comparison is fair
- Concerns regarding the welfare of the twenty-three Convenience Center employees & utilizing said staff to try to find cost-saving solutions
- The imprudence of having money leave the County, should the private contractor's home base be elsewhere
- Concerns that a private company might "low-ball" a bid to secure the job, and then elevate their costs

Commissioner O'Bryan suggested that the Teamsters Union submit a proposal to see if County operations could be done more cost effectively.

Commissioner Wheeler MOVED, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, for discussion, to approve Option B, to develop bid specifications, to bid the Customer Convenience Center operation and associated duties for private contract operations.

**January 22, 2008**

3

**S.W.D.D.**

**Ms. M. Sullivan**, Sebastian, urged the Board to retain the Convenience Center staff, and not to privatize this operation, as she felt the County employees were providing excellent service for the money.

**Fred Mensing**, 7580 129<sup>th</sup> Street, appealed to the Board to evaluate what could be done within the County's current Solid Waste Center's operations to increase productivity using current staff. He feared that a private company could present large fee increases.

**Steve Myers**, Teamsters Local Union 769, declared that a public sector employer should be able to run more efficiently than a private sector employer. He reiterated the concerns of the previous speakers relative to a private contractor hiking prices.

**Tom Pecco**, 1268 Bevin Drive, and SWDD employee, urged the Board to give the County employees a chance to enact some changes, and divulged that staff was already working with Director Mehta to make some modifications. He predicted that if the County sold its equipment and went to privatization, the private contractor would enact a rate increase, and the County would find that privatization had not been a good idea.

The Chairman CALLED THE QUESTION and the Board, by a 4-1 vote (Commissioner Flescher opposed) approved Option B, to develop Bid specifications, to bid the Customer Convenience Center operation and associated

**January 22, 2008**

4

**S.W.D.D.**

duties for private contract operations, as recommended in the memorandum of January 14, 2008.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on Motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

ALL BACKUP DOCUMENTATION ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD AND ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES

ATTEST:

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Jeffrey K. Barton, Clerk

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Sandra L. Bowden, Chairman

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

MG/SWDD Minutes

**January 22, 2008**

5

**S.W.D.D.**