



# **NORTHEAST INDIANA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

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## **PUBLIC NOTICE NORTHEAST INDIANA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISTRICT OFFICE**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

**6:30 P.M.**

### **Agenda**

- ⇒ 6:30 p.m. Call to Order
- ⇒ 6:32 p.m. Minutes of January 8, 2008
- ⇒ 6:35 p.m. Registry of Claims/Treasurer's Report
- ⇒ 6:45 p.m. Executive Committee Report
  - Recycling Drop-Off Program/Contract
  - Beth Shellman/Town of Albion
  - Bill Ley, Paul Shepherd, Town of Avilla
  - Other Comments & Discussion
- ⇒ 7:20 p.m. Programs & Operations Report
- ⇒ 7:25 p.m. Legislative Issues
- ⇒ 7:30 p.m. Other Items Pending
- ⇒ 7:35 p.m. Public Comment
- ⇒ 7:45 p.m. Adjourn

# Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District

## Board of Directors Meeting

February 12, 2008

**Board Members Present:** Mark Pankop, Ron Smith, Sara Tubergen, Don Moore, Mayor Suzanne Handshoe, Phillip Curtis, Fred Brown and Chuck Ort (Proxy for Don Kaufman)

**Board Members Absent:** Mayor Richard Hickman, Loretta Smart, Mayor David Wiant, Yvonne Eash, Donald VanWye, Don Kaufman, Mayor Norm Yoder, Mayor Patty Fisel and Terry Helmer

**CAC Present:** Colleen Hake Boyd

**District Attorney:** Andrew Kruse

**Staff Present:** Steve Christman, Pam DeCamp, Jennifer Franz, Linda Zirkle, Rich Caston and Joe Baysinger.

**Public Present:** Albion, Avilla and Cromwell Residents

**MARK PANKOP:**

We will be calling at this time the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors meeting to order. We have minutes in our package. If you have read over those some in the past. I think you received them in a package . . . a large package at home. Are there questions, corrections? The minutes that were of the last meeting are the transcript that was taken of the meeting. And it's a large bundle in your packet that you would have received a couple weeks ago or thereabouts. A week ago.

**MAYOR SUZANNE HANDSHOE:**

I move to approve.

PAM DECAMP:

Suzanne Handshoe, moved to approve.

MARK PANKOP:

Okay. I'm sorry but I forgot to say, in this evening again we are taping the transcript of the meeting. So when you speak, at least on the first time or in most cases all times, please state your name first and then proceed. So Mayor Handshoe?

MAYOR SUZANNE HANDSHOE:

Suzanne Handshoe, Mayor of Kendallville, I move to approve the minutes.

MARK PANKOP:

Do I hear a second?

DON MOORE:

Don Moore, second. County Council Noble County.

MARK PANKOP:

It's been properly moved and seconded that we approve the minutes of the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. All in favor?

GROUP RESPONSE:

Aye.

MARK PANKOP:

Opposed? Carried. Registry of Claims, Mr. Chairman . . . Mr. Director?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

On the top page of the registry of claims of course is the treasurer's report dated February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 showing a beginning balance of \$304,809.95. Listing along the left are the receipts of tax revenue, user fees, miscellaneous and grants. There's a total in receipts of \$150,411.45. Claims to be paid out, listed as 01 through 04 categories, with a total claims disbursements of \$104,797.50. Leaving an operating balance of

\$350,423.90. In the general fund . . . I'm moving across the page . . . you'll see listed a non-reverting capital fund, website and rainy day fund. That is required by law. For a total balance of \$551,513.58. Following the treasurer's report then is the registry of claims. Each claim is listed out. The majority are routine; however, I do want to point out a one time claim. On page five down at the bottom, Battery Solutions, an invoice for \$5,697.98. That represents billing for 12,000 pounds of recovered batteries. We can provide the listing of those batteries if you want 'em. On the top of page six please note, Borden Waste-Away, the recycling contract. An invoice for January of 2008 is \$33,759.22. Please note the top of . . . standby here a minute . . . the top of page seven there's a reimbursement to me on some travel expenses. And you'll also note on the bottom of page one the Wells Fargo Credit Card bill referring to a seminar and traveling expenses to New Orleans. That travel expense and room and board expense are all covered and paid for by the Hoosier Chapter of SWANA. So that either has been or will shortly be reimbursed to the District and does not come out of budgeted funds. At the top of page nine is a \$25.00 fee from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. That is part of the transporter registration fee. As you know we do not have a tire program any longer. I have maintained that registration fee. Because to let it expire and then try to reapply for it later it's more expensive yet. So it makes sense to keep it maintained. And with it we do occasionally assist local communities with tire collections and that keeps us legal in that regard. And then just below there's an invoice from Insurance Trustees. Please note that is directors and officers liability insurance. That is a one time annual fee of \$2,140.00. That's not a monthly. That's a one time annual directors and officers liability coverage. At the bottom of page ten, the propane bill for January and February is substantial. That covers the propane gas for the shop and for the office here. But it is up because of the cold weather. Those are the major

ones that I had an asterisks on Mr. Chairman.

MARK PANKOP:

Are there any questions on the claims?

RON SMITH:

I have one back on the CPR course. Who took those, are they required and how long are they good for?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Well, typically we do that once a year annually. And usually it's all of us staff.

Although I missed this year. I was out. But everybody else . . .

RON SMITH:

So it's an annual thing?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

It's that and fire training . . . fire extinguisher training. Although I've cancelled that for this year. We'll pick it up again next year. That's a one time.

RON SMITH:

Thank you.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

That propane bill, that's for a month?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

In February too. There's a February date on there also.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

Yeah. But it goes from January 15<sup>th</sup> to February 11<sup>th</sup>. Is that . . .

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Yes.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

It's not even a month and it's twenty-one hundred dollars?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Yes.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

The other question I had . . . where was it . . . the batteries. Fifty-eight hundred dollars someplace to sell.

PAM DECAMP:

Page five.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Page five I think it was.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

Five. Is that after the credit for the acid lead?

PAM DECAMP:

Yes.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

And there was nineteen 30-gallon containers. Is that what it's saying?

PAM DECAMP:

Well, we think it's right around 7,000 pounds. I can pull those records if you want.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

No. It's 11,786 pounds.

PAM DECAMP:

Eleven. Okay.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

5.9 tons. \$965 per ton. According to my notes here. So it's just under 12,000 pounds.

It's under 6 tons.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

Under six tons.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Yeah. That punches out to almost . . .

PHILLIP CURTIS:

Just shy of a thousand a ton.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Yeah.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

How long did it take you to collect that many, Pam?

PAM DECAMP:

It's about six months. We normally ship twice a year. And remember the recycling boxes for batteries are at every station and also here.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

Who does . . . does the driver pick up the containers and dump those too at the same time?

PAM DECAMP:

No. Our part time staff does that when we clean up the stations or mow or trim and those types of things.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

Okay.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

It's all done by part time people.

RON SMITH:

Commissioner Ron Smith, Steuben County, I move we approve the claims.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

I'll second it. Phil Curtis, LaGrange County Commissioner.

MARK PANKOP:

It's been properly moved and seconded that we approve the claims so noted. All in favor?

GROUP RESPONSE:

Aye.

MARK PANKOP:

Opposed? Carried. Moving on from there Mr. Chairman . . . Director.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Before I forget. Very quickly. On the table back there is the latest version or latest issue of our annual report just released . . . the 2007 Annual Report. Please grab one and take a look at it. It will tell you about the programs. It will tell you the recovery levels of our programs. It will also tell you what they cost and where the money went as well. We've also updated a Cost Benefit Analysis Report that we drafted in 2005 to answer a lot of the cities and towns questions back then about the value and what they get out of the District Operations and the District Program. We have updated those numbers. That is in this report. It is also on the table. It's called NISWMD Cost Benefit Analysis Report, February, 2008. We'd actually started on it in the year 2007, but we're just now able to get it completed. That will also answer a lot of the questions about the assessed valuations at the various . . . or I'm sorry. Not the assessed valuations, but the levy that the various cities and towns pay into the District and the value that they get back out of all the respective programs, including the drop-off program. Pam, tell 'em about the EPA Grant quickly so we can move to some of the other stuff.

PAM DECAMP:

We're in the process of checking into an EPA Grant for used household electronics. And there is an option in there as well for medications. Although this District has decided not to apply for funds to recover medications. It will only be for household electronics. And we're looking at providing a service on the west side of the District, which is something we've been trying to do for the past several years if you recall. And that grant, the cap would be twenty-five thousand. It's due on the 28<sup>th</sup> and I hope to wrap it up this week. Any questions about why we're doing that?

MARK PANKOP:

What service . . . this grant provides us with the ability to do what?

PAM DECAMP:

The grant will provide us with the ability to have a collection for residents that live on the west side of the District. You know, if you recall on Friday mornings people can bring electronics, paint, whatever here to this facility. And with this grant, if we are able to get it, we will have a place in the Wolcottville area, Ligonier area, somewhere on the west side of the District. A one day event only where people can come and bring electronics, paint, etc. there, rather than drive to this side of the District to recover it on Fridays here. Did that answer your question?

MARK PANKOP:

The one day event would use approximately what portion of the grant?

PAM DECAMP:

I would say the one day event would use probably the majority. To hold a one day event it's a lot more expensive than having it here every Friday year around. Because you have to have the mobilization and the set up by the contractor, which is our household hazardous waste contractor I'm talking about, plus the contractor to handle the electronics. It'll all be done on the west side. So they'll have to have their trucks there

and everything. It won't be done here. So it's a separate issue. It's a one day event is what the \$25,000 hopefully will pay a portion of.

MARK PANKOP:

And the reason we would be doing it on the west side is basically convenience, but also a publicity . . .

PAM DECAMP:

Convenience. It is in our plan to hold a day over there, you know, providing we have funds. And we haven't had the funds to do that. So hopefully if we're able to get this grant we will have the funds to do a one day event on that side of the District.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

As some of you may recall, we used to hold what's called tox-away days. They're popular from a PR standpoint, but they're very expensive. The last one we held was at DeKalb High School and it cost \$58,000 for one day's worth of collected material. That comes out to about \$1,500 per ton recovered for household hazardous waste. We were able to bring a drop-off here permanently and be open every Friday morning and provide that service at half the cost. About \$750 per ton. Nevertheless, there's been a request over the years to do a tox-away day on the west side. So it's always been on the wish list. With a grant, if we can tie it in with electronics recovery, which are all projected . . . the electronics, as you may or may not know, have skyrocketed as well. It may or may not enable us to hold that tox-away day on the west side. But, again, it's a one day thing and they tend to be very, very expensive.

MARK PANKOP:

Thank you, Pam.

PAM DECAMP:

You're welcome.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Before I forget, Mr. President, I need to enter into the record a letter from my friend over at Shishewana, Bill Boyer, regarding the drop-off unit in the Town of Shishewana and request that on behalf of his council that that unit remain. And Bill also refers to some numbers with regard to recovery in tons per capita.

MARK PANKOP:

Thank you.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

So we'll read that into the record. Next I think is the drop-off issues. So we can keep moving and get people back home safely. The recycling drop-off committee that was appointed by the president of our board met on Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, and debated the issue on the new contract, reconfiguring the new program and also the public input that's been received. They then presented their findings to the executive committee. And then of course this current board meeting. To redefine the problem again, the five year contract for the District was rebid in 2007 because of ever increasing costs. As some of you may recall it was well over a \$100 per ton recovered. And then the goal of rebidding and reconfiguring the system is to get that per unit cost down to where it's more affordable so that the District as a local agency can stay within budget. Bids specs were designed based on board input, based on committee's input and then of course based on staff input. Those specs and criteria weren't solely based on tonnage, but they were based first on location . . . geographic location. That being the largest and the second largest cities in the District. It was also based on a minimum, as directed by the board, of three units per county. And then thirdly and/or fourthly a look at their recoverable volumes from the entire program. That is the number of years that it's been operating and not just the past couple of years. The per unit cost of the program then

could be cut through this reconfiguration. But it involves selected removal of sites to tighten up the system to get it more efficient. The good news is we've engaged the public process. Some of the board members have observed to me we were wishing this discussion would have taken place in 2004. But if you look on the bar graph that is on page I think seventeen in the annual report, you'll see a huge difference from recovery levels from 2003 to 2004 where things have dropped off. And that's because a lot of the cities and towns prior to 2004 had two units of recovery rather than just one unit that most people are used to today. So the debate has been engaged, which is a good thing. We've received quite a bit of feedback. Jenni, do you have that spreadsheet that documents what we've heard?

JENNIFER FRANZ:

We have received eight phone calls. Four from Avilla and one each from Cromwell, Rome City, Kendallville and the Hamilton/Butler area. The overall theme of those phone calls was just to keep the units. Everyone wanted to keep their units. We received twenty-eight letters. Five from Albion, eighteen from Avilla, two from Cromwell, and one each from Wawaka, Butler and Kimmel. The same type of theme for the letters. Two interesting things that I wanted to point out. One is that there was one letter that said that they understood, you know, cutting back on the stations and that was fine. They could support that, but just not theirs. And someone else asked why they couldn't just switch to curbside.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Twenty-eight letters and eight phone calls total?

JENNIFER FRANZ:

Correct.

PAM DECAMP:

Thirty-six total.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

They are some of the observations and the feedback that we've gotten. The District . . . or excuse me . . . the public perceives that the District is here to provide recycling. That's not necessarily true legislatively and from a solid waste management plan standpoint. But, nevertheless, it is true in the public sector. Reduction in service level, or in other words convenience through recycling, as we know it today in the District is unacceptable. Recycling appears to be more important than any other District program or is perceived to be. And it should be provided at the expense of any other District program and at the expense of any staff. Just as in many other issues there's a significant disconnect between the numbers, the factual basis, and what is perceived or wanted out there. These are some of the options that the drop-off recycling committee took up at their meeting. Option one, of course, is to carry out the original contract as specified with a twelve unit system. That was the first observation. The second observation is to be responsive to take in the comments of the people that we serve and find a compromise that's dependable and supportable based on that ongoing discussion that we've just been reporting to you. That would most probably result in a sixteen unit system rather than a twelve. And then of course option number three is no change or do nothing and operate the program on a month to month basis at the current cost of \$111 per ton I believe. What's the compromise you may ask? Well, at the board's directive the second criteria was at least three units. It didn't say shall be units. It said at least three units. The drop-off committee wondered whether that was a minimum and could it be four for a more equitable distribution of the units across the District. And so that's what was proposed. Staying as closely as we can to the original specifications endorsed by the board, but still take into account the recovery threshold that is in the contract of

3,500 tons per month . . . or excuse me . . . per year . . . 3,500 tons per year. Which is a little under 300 tons per month. Which is about half of what we recovered pre-2004, by the way. Recovery levels show a smooth downward trend. In other words, there is no clear division between an upper tier and a lower tier of units. As you look at the units based in the various population centers it tends to be a smooth curve as you plot that recovery level. There's not a break where one could easily defend eliminating some of the less productive units. As originally speced the largest and second largest community in each county was the first criteria back when the committee had developed the bid document. And then going to an extended tier of the next largest recovery stations per county would remain as a matter of being responsive to the room full of folks that we have here tonight and have had here previously. Some of the pros and the cons identified by the committee. Obviously the first option is gonna save about \$80,000 to \$100,000 the first year of the contract and some savings in subsequent years. Although it decreases as you move through that five year contract. And it achieves the goal of decreasing the per unit cost and it decreases the distance between the generation point and the recovery point of the recyclables, which creates a more sufficient system. It will alienate some of the cities and towns across the District and may or may not precipitate dissolving the District. That has been known to happen. And it will be perceived as failing to be responsive by the District as well. That's option one once again, which is the twelve unit system. Option two keep in mind is a sixteen unit system. It would be perceived to be more fair and more equitable across the District. Irrespective of the generation centroids, more geographically balanced. The generation centroid is that point within the given solid waste shed, if you will, where the maximum amount of solid waste is generated. That's called the generation centroid. They'll be more responsive. So the results of this public process, which is something the board has

been striving for and been wanting for a number of years now, it will more easily meet a 3,500 ton annual spec. It's the best change in the system. In my meetings with our hauler and going over some of these criteria and looking at the system that's still workable from our contractor's standpoint as well. Any savings is questionable, especially over the course of the contract. It was observed as probably a band-aid fix, as are most things we have done for the past ten or fifteen years. It's subject to future higher cost increases. Because it is an increase in actual miles traveled between being emptied and being full. And it also remains subject to higher contamination levels. That was option two, sixteen units. Option three of course is no change, leave things as is and work on a month to month basis. That would meet the current service level expectations. That's what everybody is used to is that particular service level. The negative is it's the highest cost option and most probably it's not real practical. And of course they mentioned that it's a band-aid fix for the problem. Now one of the major concerns in this public dialog is Albion and Avilla were concerned and upset that they weren't formally notified of this. We went back through the records and took a look and the last letter that we had sent out to all the cities and towns, including Albion and Avilla, was March of '07 to invite them to this table to talk about representation on the board when we reconfigured the board from twenty members to sixteen members as it is now. But we failed in sending out a direct letter this last time around of any impending changes prior to the press release. Even though there was no decision so we couldn't really report anything. Nevertheless, we had failed to maintain that high communication level that we strive for. So we need to apologize to Albion and Avilla for that, as well as the other cities and towns too. Equally important, however, is we need to solve that problem somehow. And one of the ways we're doing that is with an electronic newsletter to try and get that out to each city and town and anyone else who wants to get

on the list, by the way, so everybody can stay in the loop. Everybody can stay engaged in this process. So that newsletter is going out or has gone out?

PAM DECAMP:

It went out today.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

It went out today. It will be monthly. It'll be a template. Something that we can . . . even somebody as inept as myself on a computer can put together so we can get those high points of when the compost lots are opening, for example. Tox-away date, so we can announce that. So that will be a monthly occurrence that you all will receive.

Probably the biggest challenge to us is gonna be to try and maintain an e-mail list and all the e-mail addresses. But nevertheless it's one of the ways in which we can . . . we can use that as well as our website. Keep in mind all the minutes and the reports . . . the new reports will be uploaded on our website as well. So you will be able to gain access to that. The other important point, equally important in the apology, is cities and towns are more than welcome to serve on our citizens advisory committee. Colleen Hake has a seat at our table. She's been the chair of the citizens advisory committee, would love to have representatives of some of the smaller cities and towns on that CAC. It meets quarterly . . . four times a year . . . and takes recommendations to the board. So that is yet another avenue where you can communicate and where you can get access to the board. And then finally I will assure you we'll fail you again. It's guaranteed. It's the human condition. We cannot possibly meet the expectations that are placed upon us, as far as covering all the demands that come at us as a six member staff. But nevertheless we still try. Once again the options. Option one is to carry out as originally specified and bid, the twelve unit system. Option two is the compromise we call it, which would be a sixteen unit system. They'll be four units per county and we'll name those off here

in just a minute. Or option three is no change and maintain as we have been and operate on a month to month basis. You'll notice this month's bill was \$33,000. Most of 'em are bouncin' right around thirty/thirty-two thousand a month depending on recovery. That's three hundred and some odd tons. I can tell you exactly here in a second. 318 tons or something like that. 317.5 tons. Almost 318. I'll put this back up. That's the analysis that the recycling drop-off committee went through. They then presented that to the executive committee. The recycling drop-off committee . . . and members correct me if I'm wrong here . . . felt like a compromise was appropriate, felt like it was part of being responsive as an agency, but yet at the same time still cuts some of those costs. That still leaves about seven units out in the cold regrettably. But it does adequately address the issue. And again it's the compromise. It did not include glass, correct?

SARA TUBERGEN:

Right.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

The drop-off committee then took that to the executive committee. And the executive committee then has directed me to report that out to you as a full board. That's all I have Mr. President.

MARK PANKOP:

Thank you, Steve. Again, I'd like to remind you that these are the options generated by the rural recycling drop-off committee that met on January the 23<sup>rd</sup>. These options, I guess at this point that's what they are, is just options. The last paragraph of the report of that committee states that Christman asked the committee if it had reached a consensus regarding the rural drop-off program. It was agreed that the committee would recommend to the full board accepting the compromise, which I think in this presentation was option two, with the exception of removing glass from the system. I

think that's the decision that's before us.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

There was a pack of those.

UNKNOWN PERSON:

They picked 'em up.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Okay. On the back page there's a listing of facilities for that proposed compromise. I'll run down through that Mr. President if it's alright?

MARK PANKOP:

Sure.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Starting with DeKalb County, there would be two drop-off units in the City of Auburn. And once again historically the City of Auburn had always had two drop-off units. The second largest city, Garrett, would have one . . . or the Garrett area. Although Don Kaufman who is a member of the committee did express concerns that it may be very difficult to get one around the Garrett area. And we may have to . . . because one doesn't exist at the moment. There may be an alternative location. And in talking with the contractor obviously because . . . if you look at the system over the past several years it's been very dynamic. Units have come and gone and the system has changed itself. We would need to locate that one questionable unit that we call Garrett to ensure that DeKalb County has four units as well. So that's the scoop on that, Chuck. And then the other unit of course is Butler. That one would remain. LaGrange County. LaGrange is the largest city or town. There's one there now. Topeka is the second largest. There's one there now. And then after that would be Shishewana. There's one there now. And then Wolcottville. Those four. Prairie Heights and Howe would go. They're smaller.

And in Noble County Kendallville would remain with one. Ligonier will remain with one. Pam has been working with Mayor Fisel over there. We did have a new location for Ligonier out on State Road 6, but the property owner has expressed some concern. So it looks like it may not work out. You may or may not recall Ligonier historically has always had two units, one at Owen's and one out at . . .

PAM DECAMP:

The park.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

The park. It was a high recovery unit. Higher than Albion and Avilla back in those years. It was reduced down to one because of contamination problems, quite frankly, because of open dumping. It has been behind a fence that's been policed pretty heavily. So that's why those numbers are so much lower today than what they used to be.

Ligonier is anxious to get it back out where . . . and they're talking to the Owen's folks again too, but that site has not been cemented yet as I call it. So one in Kendallville, one in Ligonier, one in Albion and one in Avilla. Rome City would go. There's one in Wolcottville two miles away. Cromwell would go. If we can get the Ligonier unit out . . . and that's why I thought State Road 6 would be great because it would help to accommodate some of those Cromwell folks. So we're trying to work through that. And then Steuben County. Two in Angola, one in Fremont, and one in Orland. And that would be the list. Mr. President.

DON MOORE:

If you're looking for a motion?

MARK PANKOP:

I'm looking for your name first, Don.

DON MOORE:

My name is Don Moore, Noble County Council. I would make the motion that we go with option two having the sixteen unit system. Which would bring back Albion, Avilla and some of the others that were precluded. That would bring them back into the loop.

MAYOR SUZANNE HANDSHOE:

Second. Suzanne Handshoe, Mayor of Kendallville.

MARK PANKOP:

I've heard a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion?

PHILLIP CURTIS:

I think on all of these options, whether it be one, two or three, this committee that I served on . . . and I am Phil Curtis, LaGrange County Commission . . . it was also noted that we needed to take a look on how we do business as a Solid Waste District right down the line. From our director to our legal counsel to our engineer. Look at our composting business. You know, I for one would not want to sacrifice drop-off sites to subsidize a compost site. But that's just one feeling of mine. But there was quite a bit of discussion on how we do business and Steve has been directed to get back with us on what some of the options are out there. So I want that noted that that was also included in our discussion.

MAYOR SUZANNE HANDSHOE:

I just want to make one comment. I'm noticing on the finance report there's an '05, '06 and '07 that Ligonier is on the very bottom of the tonnage. But you're sparing them and getting rid of Cromwell and Rome City. Is that because you want to cover the western part of the county?

MARK PANKOP:

That is a part of it. And also the location in Ligonier became . . . at some point in time there when it dropped way down, it became an abused site. And it was relocated from a

very convenient grocery store site . . . no a park site . . . what was the site previous to putting it at the wastewater . . . or the park?

PAM DECAMP:

Owen's Grocery Store.

MARK PANKOP:

Owen's Grocery Store. And it was a heavily used site at that time. But it become so unsightly and the city and the Owen's property owners determined that it was no longer welcomed there and it was moved. And it was moved to a location that only had daytime hours and was closed and fenced. And that undoubtedly is the reason for the low tonnage for those years that you're noting.

MAYOR SUZANNE HANDSHOE:

Okay.

MARK PANKOP:

It is perceived that that would raise greatly if it could again be placed at a grocery store. Grocery store locations seem to be the most convenient and collect the most tonnage. Are there other questions, concerns, statements? I see a hand in the audience. I will recognize one, but I'm not going to recognize too many. But I will recognize the one. Go ahead. Stand and please state your name.

BOB LEAMON:

I'm Bob Leamon from Cromwell. And one of the points that the gentleman brought up just awhile ago about the three items that were up there on the board. I felt that that idea should have came first before the three options came up. That the Solid Waste District should have looked at themselves first to see what they could do to maintain all of the units that are out there right now. You know, number three it says no change at all. But I think if they looked at themselves they could find some options to find some monies

that would offset that . . . I understand you're \$80,000 to \$100,000 short of . . . and that's why you're taking some of these units out. But I also see the education amount here of \$98,000. And in my opinion and then also in the letter that I created for the Town of Cromwell, that the total expenses for education should be eliminated totally.

MARK PANKOP:

Do we want to respond or . . .

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

We can respond or we can submit written responses. Depending on how lengthy the comments . . .

MARK PANKOP:

That question does have an answer. I will take a short response to that. Basically in 2005 is when a lot of our current concerns first started becoming apparent to us. And since that time . . . and previous to that time actually, we've made a lot of changes internally. We've economized in many different ways. And quite honestly we've tweaked it to the point of we'll have to eliminate one of probably our four major programs. We have eliminated a number of programs. We no longer take white goods or tires. The household hazardous waste program has been reduced. All of the programs have been reduced.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

We actually cut the education program a year ago by forty thousand. So we cut it once and we'll . . . if the need arises again this year we'll cut the rest of it out. I'm not sure . . . I don't remember the ninety-eight thousand number. Because we had budgeted sixty in '08. So it had been cut forty thousand from '07 to '08.

BOB LEAMON:

Yeah. It indicated on page nine of your annual report on the cost benefits spreadsheet

that education was \$98,000 spent.

JENNIFER FRANZ:

This spreadsheet is not the actual payout amount. If you read the narrative it explains how the figure was arrived.

STEVE CHRISTMAN:

Those costs are generated off of the spreadsheet right here. And that's an in-house working document. And by that I mean that's a spreadsheet that I use to assign and attribute the cost of every one of our programs. So that actual cost is absolutely everything. In other words, that's labor, staff hours, benefits, contractors. That is everything. So that by going through each program I can report to the board and others that ask me, what does your compost program cost? And I can answer it costs \$351,000 a year. Which works out to about \$27 per ton of material that we process. The drop-off recycling program, for example, total . . . total cost \$438,000 a year. Now that's not what we pay the contractor. That includes the contractor and absolutely everything else we can think of that is a true and actual cost. And that's what that's all about. But we did budget . . . the '08 budget is sixty thousand and probably we won't renew the educator contracts. They're up April or May, right?

PAM DECAMP:

Uh-huh.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

So we won't renew those. You've got to keep in mind the spreadsheets that you see or the budget sheets that you see are local board approved budgets and in the previous years state approved budgets. But that is not necessarily the funds that the District receives. And we have extensive spreadsheet work we can certainly go over with you at some point in time that shows the disparity between what was actually budgeted and the

actual levy funds received. And typically they're very different numbers. And then the final comment is we have not heard back from the state on our '08 budget so we don't have the budget order. But we fully expect to be required to cut about two hundred thousand dollars out of it. That one point eight is not realistic. But we did that intentionally so we can use any other levy money then where we can. But we're more than likely going to have to readjust that later. Mr. President.

MARK PANKOP:

Thank you.

BETH SHELLMAN:

I want to enter this before you take a vote.

MARK PANKOP:

I will recognize Beth Shellman.

BETH SHELLMAN:

Thank you. Before the board takes a vote . . . I realize you have a motion and a second . . . I did want to enter . . . we have twelve from the Town of Albion here tonight. A couple weeks ago one of our residents suggested that the town circulate a petition. And in two weeks we received five hundred and twenty-seven signatures . . . or thirty-seven signatures . . . five hundred and thirty-seven signatures and one letter from some residents in Albion. And I wanted to present that to the president to enter into your record. And these are signatures in support of keeping the Albion site open.

MARK PANKOP:

Thank you. Our secretary is absent tonight, but I will see that he gets these.

BETH SHELLMAN:

Right. And I did have a question. Did that include keeping glass or introducing glass at the sixteen sites?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

No, it did not.

BETH SHELLMAN:

That was no glass.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

We're keeping glass out. As you recall that was eliminated in 2004. Glass is 5.5 percent of the municipal solid waste stream. It's very heavy. It's very abrasive. It's high wear and tear. And it's a very small portion of what we recover. So when you're operating on a limited amount of dollars . . . your dollars and my dollars . . . the key is to focus those dollars on those items in the waste stream where you can maximize recovery. And for us it's fiber. Fiber meaning newsprint and corrugated cardboard. Sixty percent . . . and if you include cardboard, almost seventy percent of the material that we handle is fiber. Seventy percent. It's huge. So rather than spend our valuable dollars on smaller items like glass it's focused on maximizing the recovery, quite frankly. Sixty percent, you'll note in the annual reports, is newsprint. Mr. President.

MARK PANKOP:

Thank you.

RON SMITH:

Mr. Pankop?

MARK PANKOP:

Yes.

RON SMITH:

Ron Smith, Steuben County. In sitting in all of this process folks it's been very difficult to defend perhaps an issue here or an issue there. You people are familiar with the location of Hamilton. It is partially in DeKalb County, but also the majority of it is in

Steuben County. They are not going to be happy to lose the service over there. And the reason I raise that at this time is, if you look at your charts you will see that there are two at Angola, but they rank second from the highest as far as collection is concerned. Hamilton is basically fourth from the bottom if you do not count the District itself. And so in defending this through my constituency I'm going to have to say tonnage is the reason why we did what we did. They're going to of course see the fact, if this information is provided, that Ligonier is one of those lower. So I think and I hope that those of you on the western side of Noble County understand that what was a strong consideration was the location and convenience to the people of that side of the county. Because I'm going to have a difficult time in supporting this to the people of my area. And they're gonna want to know why I didn't stand up and make it stronger. And then of course my defense is the amount collected in Angola is what justified what we're doing. And so I just wanted that put into the record. And as I say, these were very difficult decisions. And so I think we've reached a very admirable compromise. And so I guess I'll turn it back to you, sir. Thank you.

MARK PANKOP:

Are there any other questions by board members? Do I hear a call for the question?  
This means that we will vote.

FRED BROWN:

Fred Brown of LaGrange County Council and I'll call the question.

MARK PANKOP:

It's been properly moved and seconded, discussed and a call for the question. Do we have someone who has recorded the motion exactly as option two, and that is without glass? Does everyone understand what we're voting on? All in favor?

GROUP RESPONSE:

Aye.

MARK PANKOP:

Opposed? Hearing none. Unanimous. Moving on from there.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Are there any issues on programs and operations, Pam? Did we cover everything on programs and operations?

PAM DECAMP:

Yes.

MARK PANKOP:

I have lost my agenda.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Here. Do you want mine?

MARK PANKOP:

No. I'll find it.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

I'll report then on legislation quickly.

MARK PANKOP:

Sure. Go ahead. Legislative issues.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Legislatively on a state level things were pretty quiet with regard to solid waste management issues. They're certainly not quiet when it comes to the property tax based issues. There's one piece of legislation called Senate Bill 43 that allows IDEM to take the majority of the recycling grant money, which is very limited right now, and contribute some of that . . . or shift some of that to waste to energy. And the governor's administration is interested in some waste to energy projects. So what limited recycling

grant funds that were there would either be gone completely or partially. And that's really the major piece of state legislation. Federally the energy bill included the per kilowatt hour tax rate or landfill gas to energy issues. I say that because that's critical on a national level. Methane gas is becoming a valuable, valuable renewable fuel. If the bill goes through with those tax exempt provisions it will free up about six hundred landfill gas to energy projects, which is significant. Very, very significant from an energy production standpoint, as well as from an economic development standpoint. And that's the legislative report, Mr. Chairman . . . Mr. President.

MARK PANKOP:

Thank you.

COLLEEN HAKE:

What was that bill number?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

On a state level, Senate Bill 43 . . . SB 43. And on the federal I've got it here somewhere, Colleen. I'll have to find it. It's in my little memo.

MARK PANKOP:

Are there other items pending? Board member comments, concerns?

DON MOORE:

Do you have any finance committee meetings? Don Moore, Noble County . . . sorry . . . Noble County Council. Finance committee meetings coming up? Do we do them? Can I be a part of that? To look at us as to what we're doing as a board financially.

MARK PANKOP:

Are you referring to a budget process or an audit process?

DON MOORE:

Just to look at where we're spending money and why.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Over the years we've done it two different ways. Either we . . . and the president makes appointments on a finance committee and the finance committee does that. Most recently the executive committee has acted in that role. And I start off on the budget in June of every year. I introduce a June, a July and an August version of the budget to the execs first and then they bring it to the board. And then by September 20<sup>th</sup> of course we're required by law to adopt that. So it's usually a three or four month process now. However, that doesn't preclude the board from establishing a finance committee. And we can do that. It just means more committee meetings, which will mean an expenditure of more time. But we can certainly do that. We have a drop-off committee. We used to . . . and haven't utilized it for some time . . . an equipment committee that analyzed equipment purchases and those kind of things. So Mr. President it will be up to the executive on how we're gonna handle that.

MARK PANKOP:

With the concerns that's been expressed by Phil Curtis and Don Moore, I believe that that would be in order. What we would need would be volunteers for that. And I've already heard you volunteer. Previously what has happened is that we've not had the volunteers. But if there is interest in that we could proceed with that now. I mean in appointing that committee if that is of concern.

DON MOORE:

I guess I just want to be able to look at every dime that we spend. Because we see that there's been problems. There are going to be more problems possibly down the road. I want to be a part of looking at every penny that we spend and how we spend it.

MARK PANKOP:

I take it then you are volunteering to be on that committee?

DON MOORE:

Yes.

MARK PANKOP:

Do I hear others?

PHILLIP CURTIS:

I will.

MARK PANKOP:

And Phil Curtis. Don Moore. Probably one or two more at least.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Make it three.

MARK PANKOP:

Pardon?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Make it three.

ANDREW KRUSE:

The president has to be on it.

MARK PANKOP:

I will be on it.

SARA TUBERGEN:

If they'll meet when I can meet.

DON MOORE:

I'm flexible.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

I am too.

SARA TUBERGEN:

Can we just meet like before this meeting?

PHILLIP CURTIS:

Well, before this meeting is the executive board and I'm on that.

DON MOORE:

Do we get to volunteer you like we volunteered Randy at the county council meeting in Noble County? Sara volunteers.

MARK PANKOP:

Are you volunteering Sara?

SARA TUBERGEN:

If it's on a time when I'm not at school.

RON SMITH:

She's . . . just knowing Sara's schedule. And the two of us are up from Steuben County and she's a very excellent council woman. Sara, I'm gonna tell you it's gonna take a lot of time that you don't have. You may take it. If you don't, I will. Because I have the time to do so and I will do it if you don't wish to. Because the executive committee is gonna be looking for a person in a few years and I'm sure that you're gonna want that. And so that being the case, you make that decision.

MARK PANKOP:

We probably can meet some time possibly between the executive meeting and the board meeting.

SARA TUBERGEN:

Can I check what my schedule will be and let you know?

MARK PANKOP:

You certainly can. We will leave that option open to you and understand that Ron will volunteer if you do not take the position. So that makes Don Moore, Sara . . . your last

name please?

RON SMITH:

Tubergen.

SARA TUBERGEN:

Tubergen.

MARK PANKOP:

Tubergen. And Phil Curtis. And of course Chairman Mark Pankop. And we will have a date for that meeting as soon as we understand Sara's schedule.

SARA TUBERGEN:

Which is changing.

MARK PANKOP:

Are there other concerns by board members? Public comment? And we're certainly glad to see the chairs full.

BETH SHELLMAN:

I would like to make a comment.

MARK PANKOP:

Sure. Beth.

BETH SHELLMAN:

I wanted to let you know that we . . . from the Town of Albion that we accept your apology. And I do look forward to improved communication and have received a couple e-mails from Pam in the last week or two. So I appreciate that.

MARK PANKOP:

Yes.

BILL LEY:

Bill Ley from Avilla. I would like to echo what Beth just said. And I would like to

thank the committee for all their hard work and hard decisions. And I just appreciate . . .  
I know you guys have hard decisions to make and I just appreciate what you did.

RON SMITH:

Thank you, sir.

MARK PANKOP:

Paul Shepherd.

PAUL SHEPHERD:

Yeah. Town of Avilla. I'd also like to echo that and just say thank you for . . . I  
commend you for listening to the public. And I think as far as the Town of Avilla is  
concerned it's a compromise that we can live with. Thank you very much.

MARK PANKOP:

How quick can you get option two up there on the screen?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Pretty quick. Do you want the . . .

MARK PANKOP:

The one that says . . .

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Is that what you're lookin' for?

MARK PANKOP:

No. The one that says that the . . . all the costs haven't been figured out yet. I think it's  
the next one after this. There. The comments. But that's option one. Yeah.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

There you go. I think that's what you're lookin' for.

MARK PANKOP:

Yes.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Okay.

MARK PANKOP:

If you'll notice on the comments, the third one down, subject to future higher cost increase due to more miles traveled. That's a question we have to answer as a board yet. Because we don't know where those costs are going to be taken from. So I welcome you back to help us determine that. Thank you. More public comment? Who did I miss? Oh yes. Go ahead.

CHRIS MAGNUSON:

Thank you. I'm Chris Magnuson from the Albion town council. And we are definitely interested in the . . . is it the quarterly meeting of the CAC?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Yes. CAC.

CHRIS MAGNUSON:

And thank you for listening to us. And I just had a question. Is a tub grinder a glass grinder? I don't know what that is.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

No. A tub grinder is a hammermill.

CHRIS MAGNUSON:

It does grind stuff up?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Yes. It's designed for grinding. And in our case it's designed for grinding wood.

CHRIS MAGNUSON:

Okay. Wood. I just didn't know what it was for.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

So we go to Albion and Avilla quite frequently to grind all the brush.

CHRIS MAGNUSON:

I didn't know if it was for glass or newspaper or what it was.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

There is hammermill technology out there that does grind glass in materials processing facilities, yes.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

Whose's the other representative from Noble County for the second town?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Ligonier's Mayor Fisel.

MARK PANKOP:

Patty Fisel.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

Okay.

MARK PANKOP:

Patty's not here tonight. Don Moore is from a council.

PHILLIP CURTIS:

Yeah.

MARK PANKOP:

By the way, what did our tub grinder cost and how many years ago did we buy it?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

We bought it ten years ago and it cost \$286,000 and some odd change.

MARK PANKOP:

Ten years ago.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Design lifetime is seven.

MARK PANKOP:

So in the not to distant future this board will have to make a decision on what to do about purchasing a tub grinder at approximately double that cost.

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

We don't know that for a fact yet. It's gonna be substantially more.

MARK PANKOP:

Bill. Bill Ley in the back row.

BILL LEY:

I just happened to see in your '08 budget where you've got a \$100,000 in there for tub grinder rental. Is that in the near future replacing that or . . .

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

That was put in there in anticipation of a lease purchase of a new machine. Yeah. It may or may not happen.

BILL LEY:

I understand.

MARK PANKOP:

Yes.

BOB LEAMON:

Bob Leamon again from Cromwell. What's the time table for removal?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

Very slow. Three to six months.

BOB LEAMON:

Three to six months?

STEVEN CHRISTMAN:

We'll go slow. We'll be in touch.

BOB LEAMON:

And I also indicated . . . and Mr. Pankop didn't have an answer for the gas mileage issue . . . of gas cost with traveling full and empty. And I'm glad that . . . you know, I think the board is gonna be considering follow up of the program once it's initiated to see how well it's gonna run.

MARK PANKOP:

Are there other public questions? We're adjourned.