

T H E T O W N O F
MERRIMAC

S6911 State Highway 113 – P.O. Box 115
Merrimac, WI 53561

MINUTES OF THE LANDFILL SITING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Present were Terry Frosch, Chair; Tim Healy, and Dawn Peetz. Also present was Tim McCumber, Town Administrator & Clerk – Treasurer.

Frosch called the **LANDFILL SITING COMMITTEE MEETING** to order. McCumber confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed. The board considered approval of minutes of the town board meeting of August 11, 2010. Motion by Healy to approve, second by Peetz. Motion passed. The committee first considered a DNR presentation regarding landfill and landfill construction. Jim Kralick of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is a hydro-geologist with the DNR and appeared at the request of the committee. He talked about the types of landfill construction, noting that a composite liner goes in the basin, they existing landfills are clay lined. Composite lining is reserved for commercial facilities. The Army has not submitted any formal plans so he is not sure what liner they will utilize. They provided an opinion letter on the site location. The next step is to submit a feasibility study. A composite liner potentially should perform better as a cap than a clay liner. He is not sure if the liner would be specifically better in this application or not. The municipal landfill is much larger and they get more contaminants out of a demolition site. Field experts use to believe that the VOC's (volatile organic compounds) were hazardous in clay liner sites, but that this theory has been disproved. The cap liner's objective is to keep the gases trapped rather than keep water out. He thinks in theory it could work to keep water out, but does not know if it will dramatically reduce the surface water flows. When a landfill is properly maintained, he thinks that the potential problems with capping a landfill probably won't be reduced. If Sumpter discontinues operating the waste facility, the DNR would require holding tanks be installed and the leachate captured and moved to a facility that can handle the waste if they could not find an alternate waste facility to pump to. Kralick said that the VOC's that are leaking at Badger are significantly lower than compared to a municipal landfill. There is a 40 year rule for that is related to funding and how much they are required to have available for monitoring the site. If there is a need to maintenance beyond 40 years, the property owner would still be liable for the site, whether it is the Army or the DNR. Jim said the process is at a midway point and that the negotiation process the town is engaging in is not a factor in their approval process. He has statutory deadlines that he is required to meet dependent upon the Army's approval process. They can start construction on the facility prior to receiving approval; however, they could not fill it with waste. The committee then considered a discussion with an environmental engineer from Ramaker & Associates. Mike Pinske and Andy Rice from Ramaker Associates appeared. They thought that Jim Kralick did a very good job of describing landfill construction and further described the difference between composite and clay liners. There is a lot of benefit to the composite liner, but they feel it may not necessarily be the best application for this facility. They could provide a 3rd party assessment of Army data, they could monitor construction, and they could do independent testing. Mike did agree the leachate is less volatile than a municipal well and that the site is fortunate to have a waste water facility. It is more common that they have the tanking method that Kralick described than it is to have a wastewater facility like the one that is currently being used. The composite liners have been in use at least 20 years. The commission then considered the deliberation negotiation topics to discuss with the U.S. Army relative to the landfill expansion at Badger Army Ammunition Plant. McCumber recommended that because the negotiation process with the Army is through the Wisconsin Department of Administration Department of Hearing & Appeals and will be necessary to create a negotiating strategy, he is recommending they hold these discussions in closed session at the next meeting in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 19.87. Motion by Healy, second by Frosch. Motion passed. Laura Olah of CSWAB (Citizens for Safe Water at Badger) expressed the opinion that she does not think the committee has the legal or engineering technology to support any decision the town might want to make relative to monitoring the site and therefore, they do not have enough information as to what kind of questions we should be asking.

Motion to adjourn by Healy, second Frosch. Motion passed.

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