

Mayor Dave Anderson opened the public meeting at the Visitor Center on May 3, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, City Council President Chris Clark, City Council Members Mike Klaus, Connie Wells, and Tom Mayo, County Commissioners Dan Dinning, Walt Kirby, Ron Smith, Bonners Ferry Garbage Company owner Ron Frederickson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, Assistant City Administrator David Sims, Clerk Jean Diel, and approximately 30 concerned residents of the community.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss curbside recycling options, associated fees and concerns about the Boundary County Landfill status.

Mayor Anderson gave a brief overview of what has been discussed by council up to date then introduced Commissioner Dan Dinning to report Boundary County's Landfill status. The county is currently operating under a small community exemption, operating the landfill under certain criteria, which include rainfall and 20 ton volume limit. The biggest concern is to reduce the tonnage that goes into the pit. Boundary County has closed the unmanned sites - boxes at Copeland, Good Grief, Eastport, and Deer Park area. The county has manned sites in Naples and Paradise Valley. Dan presented some figures from fiscal year 2008-2009. Total tonnage that came to the landfill between aluminum, cardboard, newspaper, electronics, plastics was 184 ton, 160 ton of metal, and 130 ton of wood. For six months into present fiscal year, we are up from last fiscal year, 232 ton for aluminum, cardboard, newspaper, electronics and plastics, 288 ton for metal and 130 for wood, this because of the recycling efforts of the community. A waste stream study, a study done to figure out what goes into the hole, was down 15 tons. A significant point, said Mr. Dinning, Boundary County has been saving money for the Landfill Closure Fee for cost in closing the landfill. The fund today is at about \$600,000. To close the landfill, at today's cost's, would be about \$1.5 million. The less we put in the hole, the longer it will last. It will someday be a transfer site and the cost will go up then.

Questions and concerns were then fielded in discussion from the concerned citizens. Clarice McKenney asked if the cost estimate included the topping of the landfill off and sealing it.

Mike Klaus asked if a master plan has been done on the cost of a transfer station. How much longer will it be open before converting to a transfer station? Dan answered 20-25 years at the rate were a presently going. Ron Smith added the cost will increase as time goes on. Ron added the electronics of today have increased the need to send to the different sites of recycling.

Tim West asked about the Bio Mass option. The Mayor answered that the city is keeping track of the different studies being conducted throughout the area.

Clarice asked if there is a market for the materials that are being recycled.

Dan explained that the county can't burn anymore because of EPA standards.

Jerry Higgs asked a three fold question; is the county facing an EPA mandate of a weigh-in process; is the county considering a partial transfer station concept for the separated solids; and what is the county doing about the yard waste being buried? Dan responded that EPA has asked that the county weigh in the garbage taken to the landfill, when the tests are performed the county has used the grain facility locally to weigh the garbage, which is considerably cheaper than buying a scale to weigh the garbage. The minute the county hauls anything out to another facility, they then have proven there is a viable alternative, at which time, the landfill will then close. Dan said that yard waste is not allowed to be buried. It goes into the wood pile.

Chris Clark asked for clarification that if we reduce the garbage that goes into the hole, we increase the years of the landfill. Silas Thompson asked if a study has been done on how long it can last.

Ruth Nelson asked about the rates by the county and the city. A city resident receives a reduced solid waste fee compared to the county resident.

David Ronniger asked if glass is taken at landfill and if it can be sold. It was explained it is taken but not put in the hole.

Carolyn Testa asked how much per year is set aside for the Landfill closure fee. Dan said about \$25,000-\$30,000 per year.

Dave Gray asked if a cost per individuals using the landfill has been considered. Dan said the garbage that is collected by other than Boundary County, such as the city, having a place for it to go, creates a viable alternative to adding to the county's tonnage, and takes away the automatic closing of the landfill. It could possibly allow the city some revenue break.

Ron Navarro asked about the rubber/tires. It costs the county approximately \$5,700.00 per year to get rid of them. Yard waste and wood are hauled away at a cost to the county as well.

Stephen Boorman commented that recycling isn't necessarily done to make money.

The gentleman who monitors the Naples site added he thinks stickers; something to identify being from Boundary County, would help keep the tonnage down, only allow residents to bring their garbage to Boundary County's landfill.

Ivan Wedel asked about the commercial businesses being given some incentive to sort their waste in their dumpsters.

Donna Foiles asked for the figures on what the county has made presently on the recyclables: Aluminum \$892, Cardboard \$2900, Paper \$3300, Metals \$42,000. The costs to the county have been: Tires \$5700, Wood \$11,000, and Electronics \$500.

Lisa West asked if the county has looked into chipping the wood and reselling it. Dan explained the county got to a crisis point where they needed to do something quickly to reduce the tonnage.

Walt Kirby helped explain the site in Colburn that takes wood products and does whatever they do with it and anyone can haul their wood products instead of bringing it to the landfill.

Clarice added that a transfer station demands a lot more separating than what is presently done for our site.

A representative from Take It or Leave It needs a place to hold their event. They recycle anything for home use.

Mayor Anderson explained why this meeting was called. The city has about one quarter of the houses in the county. The city pays a landfill fee and also pays the contractor to haul to the landfill. It is a residential only contract. The Bonners Ferry Garbage Company carries the commercial contracts themselves. The city wants to do their small part in recycling. This would not be a mandatory curbside pickup, but a voluntary system. The more who participate and sign up, the cheaper the cost. If the city implements curbside, their hope is that it will gain momentum and grow.

Ron Frederickson presented his option for pick-up curbside. In his Option #2, it would be a voluntary participation to all households. He feels if you pay for it, you will use it. The other option is for only charging those who want it. He drives the city on a weekly route. His trial period would be for 4 months, and estimating what the numbers he has presently, he could offer \$3.25 more to the garbage charges to pick-up recyclables at each residence on his route. It includes recycling cardboard; tin and aluminum cans; mixed paper and magazines, and plastics separated in the container he provides. BF Garbage would provide one 18 gallon bin per household. He feels it is not cure, but is a step in the right direction and it helps the landfill's tonnage problem.

Clarice asked why glass can't be taken. Ron explained that his truck is not divided to accept glass. The recycle truck does not compact. When one unit is full, it has to be hauled up to the landfill and dumped. He could possibly cover approximately 400 homes per load.

Ron Smith would like to be sure the glass does not get put in the hole. People still need a place to take the glass.

After four months, the figures will be taken back to the city to see if it is viable to continue, know what kind of participation, how long it takes to pick up and the hard costs. This meeting was to present it to the residents to see if they are interested.

Lisa West asked how unmanned bins in the city limits compare in cost to the truck hauling by the contractor. Ron explained it is unsecured and could get contaminated by

mixing with garbage. It's not a perfect system. The less control, the more labor is needed for separating. Ron Smith added if a conveyor is implemented, sorting will be a big concern. Lisa West stressed that education and habit of recycling is the key.

Silas Thompson expressed his appreciation to the garbage company of their faith in the community and he is willing to pay the extra, but added if a personal addition of a recycle bin per household could be a possibility; and added another route each month for recycling.

The options presented tonight are basically for residential. Some commercial accounts have a cardboard bin for recycling on a weekly schedule. Ron is not sure of how labor intense any of this will be, that is what this trial basis will reveal.

Dan Dinning asked if the city is looking at mandatory fee with voluntary recycle or looking voluntary participation and pay. The Mayor responded that all the options are still on the table. Ron would like to keep the cost down and hope that everyone will participate.

Jerry Higgs suggested a graduated rate to who uses the landfill, if someone uses it more, they pay more.

Silas asked if there may be a fee to enter the landfill, but the fee is already accessed as a tax payer. He also asked if there is a possibility of unmanned sites in the city and hopes that more information and education will be included in the weeks to come. With education and reporting to the community and schools, unmanned sites also remain an option if they can be used responsibly.

Mayor Anderson concluded the evening of discussion, encouraging more meetings like this in the future. The meeting ended at 8:20pm.

David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Jean Diel, Deputy City Clerk