

## Community Services Committee Meeting

### Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

The meeting convened at 8:06 A.M. in Room 903 of the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is located on the wall near the entrance of the room. A notice of the meeting was published in the June 7, 2016, issue of *The Daily Record*. County Commissioners present at the meeting were Clare Duda, P.J. Morgan, and Marc Kraft. Others present at the meeting were Kent Holm, Environmental Services; Joe Lorenz and Diane Carlson, County Administration; and Dan Esch and Constance Mierendorf, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's Office. Marc Kraft chairs the Committee.

A video recording of the meeting is available on the Douglas County Website:

<http://commissioners.douglascounty-ne.gov/board-meetings/videos>.

#### **Under the Sink (UTS) Interlocal Agreement**

- Kent Holm said the Under the Sink Interlocal Agreement originated in 2003 between Sarpy County, the City of Omaha and Douglas County. It was originally a cost sharing agreement based on the amount of tonnage that goes into the landfill. Currently the County contributes 10 cents per ton of waste that goes into the landfill from the County to the City to help run UTS and Sarpy County contributes 30 cents per ton.
- The new agreement would be splitting actual costs three ways between the City, Sarpy County and Douglas County. The estimated cost for the County for 2017 is \$107,000.
- The agreement is scheduled for a 5 year term with a 5 year extension.
- Materials being brought in are more hazardous and expensive to dispose of than in the past. This is a positive thing from an environmental standpoint since these materials are not being dumped down the drain or into the landfill.
- The City of Omaha provides employees, and grant funds come from NDEQ (Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality).
- The cost share will be a 2 -pronged approach. The County will share one City employee and the City will invoice the County for actual disposal amounts as opposed to a set amount based on landfill tonnage. This agreement is more reflective of the actual disposal costs. It is a more consistent cost and will be paid in arrears.
- Commissioner Kraft asked what the 2015 cost was and Mr. Holm said it was \$50,000.
- Commissioner Kraft said he would like to see a mobile unit of UTS present at neighborhood clean-up days. Mr. Holm said this has been discussed and is a matter of cost and staffing.
- Commissioner Duda questioned the 3-way division because the County does not contribute 1/3 of the volume. The UTS does not accept waste from farms because it has classified them as businesses.
- Mr. Holm said the 1/3 charge is the cost of disposal. The facility is being staffed by the City. There are approximately 6 employees at UTS.
- Residents can go to UTS and take material away, repurposing it at no cost.
- NDEQ is currently requiring the City to apply for a grant every year. Discussions are being held to see if that can be changed to eliminate the yearly applications. Ideally there could be some

- earmarked funds for UTS. There is a \$1.25 surcharge for every ton of waste dumped into every landfill in the State. The argument will be made to dedicate a portion of that money to Under the Sink.
- Commissioner Kraft asked if the \$50,000 increase in the County's payment was figured into the budget.
- Mr. Holm said the expenses won't come until the next year. Increases will impact the 2017 budget.

#### **Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) Task Force**

- The Task Force met on April 27, 2016 and discussed the Omaha Yard Waste Study, automated collection, and education and outreach to determine what role the Task Force would play in educating the public.
- Sanitary Improvement Districts (S.I.D.s) and LB 324 were discussed. This legislation passed in 2015 and clarified that S.I.D.s are able to enter into solid waste collection contracts. There has been some activity among S.I.D.s taking advantage of the legislation. Prior to LB 324, Mr. Holm sent a letter to S.I.D.s to get a sense of their positions on solid waste collection. It has been suggested that he send a follow up letter out to see how S.I.D.s assess where they are now that the enabling legislation has been clarified.
- Mr. Holm said Greg Youell gave an update on Heartland 2050; there are some solid waste related aspects to the plan that the County is coordinating with them.
- Action items include looking at Keep Omaha Beautiful as a potential partner to do some education and outreach. The City will be reporting on the yard waste study.
- The next meeting is on August 10 at 3 pm. at MAPA (Metropolitan Area Planning agency).

#### **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permit**

- The State is proposing a new general permit to cover all entities across the State that currently have permits.
- Part of the conversation is whether Bennington and Washington County get pulled in to having a Phase 2 permit like Douglas County has. It is likely that Bennington will be included, but there is some doubt about whether Washington County fits the criteria for a Phase 2 permit as it is defined. There are still rural areas of Washington County that do not fit the criteria. Douglas County does the building permits for Bennington and the County has been encouraging the kinds of compliance it is required to follow.
- There are water quality benefits to having Bennington in the mix.
- Ralston, La Vista, Bellevue, and Papillion all are included in Phase 2 permits. Douglas County has been in compliance with Phase 2 permitting for 12-13 years.

#### **Comprehensive Land Use Development Plan**

- The Land Use Development Plan forms the basis for zoning and other regulations. There are enabling statutes that underlie the health and public safety aspects of zoning and land use development.
- The Plan was last updated in 2006 and it has all been very effective and well received. It has forced the definition of the perimeters of cities which is where development should occur rather than in a patch work fashion into areas where there are no services.
- Basic tenets of the plan are not envisioned to change. Transportation and population elements need to be updated based on current figures. Some information will be converted to GIS (Geographical Information Systems) and an electronic format. Land use maps will therefore be much more accessible.
- Commissioner Kraft asked what the cost of the RFP is and how many people bid. Mr. Holm said he is finalizing the RFP and his best estimate is that it will be \$25,000 or less and that there could be more than one consultant hired. It should be ready in the next month.

- Having a Comprehensive Land Use Development Plan is necessary for the County statutorily in order to do zoning. MAPA will be a resource for the Plan. Environmental Services is defining in house what elements it can update.

#### **Weed Control**

- LB 1038 from the past legislative session had to do with funding for weed control. It set up an invasive plant assistance fund.
- The NRD (Natural Resource District) is putting more money into the Phragmite (common reed found in wetlands areas) Control Project on the Platte and that will improve endangered species and recreational activities on the Platte. It also minimizes conveyance issues with ice jams.

#### **Environmental Compliance**

- The Landfill Gas Beneficial Use project is going well. A number of kinks have been worked out in that system.

#### **Emerald Ash Borer**

- The Emerald Ash Borer has been confirmed in Douglas County. A 15 mile zone is the defined area where treatment is recommended for trees that have significant value to the home owner and are in good shape.
- The County has systematically removed trees that have been marginal at the Health Center over the past 7-8 years. There is one that is healthy and worth saving.
- There are some trees at the Fitzgerald Home that could be saved, but they need to be assessed in light of the proposed construction.
- The City is doing a bid for contractors for tree treatment that the County will tag on to.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 A.M.