
Members Absent: None.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Stumbo called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Motion by Doe to receive and file the minutes of the September 28, 2016 meeting as presented. Support by Ichesco. In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)

3. NEW BUSINESS:

   A. Request for Consideration – Changes to YCUA Board of Commissioners’ 2017 Meeting Schedule re: Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays – Jeff Castro

      Motion by Bodary to approve the Changes to YCUA Board of Commissioners’ 2017 Meeting Schedule re: Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. Support by Jason. In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)


      Mr. Westover advised the Board that this proposal will allow for the installation of some equipment upstream from the incinerator to pilot test
the addition of lime for odor control and for the potential to reduce acid emissions.

Luther D. Blackburn advised the Board that the benefit of the system is two-fold. He indicated that the primary goal is to sustain landfilling, which is an issue because the Authority has a difficult time finding a site to dispose of the very odorous dewatered biosolids. Mr. Blackburn explained that YCUA has to drive farther each time the incinerator goes offline to find a landfill that will accept the biosolids. He pointed out that this system also allows the option of adding lime to the sludge for incinerator feed, which can also remove sulfur dioxide -- neutralizing acid and reducing corrosion. Mr. Blackburn also explained that the estimated operating cost would be less than half of adding caustic soda.

Ms. Stumbo inquired as to whether this will help reduce odors at the plant site. Mr. Blackburn responded that it could have a marginal benefit in that the product in the silos will smell better but that there will still be odors generated by the wastewater treatment process. He further advised that this will be of benefit to the community in that odors from the trucks hauling biosolids to the landfill will be markedly improved.

Mr. Blackburn stated that the Authority has gone through a couple of iterations of this study, including one called Planet Breeze as well as chemical addition and lime slurry. He acknowledged that this quick lime will be slightly more expensive in capital investment than the lime slurry but will be significantly cheaper in operating expenses.

Ms. Stumbo inquired as to whether there is odor control at the headworks. Mr. Blackburn responded affirmatively but clarified that there are no chemicals added to the primaries; instead, the foul air is drawn off of the headworks and is chemically treated in another facility. Mr. Castro interjected that that facility is the original odor control system that was installed in the late ‘90s. Mr. Blackburn confirmed that some of the odors being experienced recently are coming from that facility, which is currently not operating as efficiently as it needs to. He explained that the hydrogen sulfide loading at that facility is significantly higher than its design capacity. Mr. Blackburn pointed out that a notice was issued a couple of weeks ago to inform the public that the odor control system would be offline temporarily after Halloween while the manufacturer representative evaluates the system for improvements and performs a significant cleaning.

Mr. Bodary inquired as to whether this will have a positive impact on acid rain and be looked upon favorably by the EPA. Mr. Blackburn responded that he can’t say whether the quick lime will have a more significant
impact on acid emissions than the current caustic soda addition but that it will be more cost effective.

Mr. Doe inquired as to how long the pilot will last. Mr. Blackburn responded that the pilot will continue until it can be determined whether it works. Mr. Westover interjected that, while it was not considered in the proposal, six to eight weeks should be sufficient and would be an acceptable time frame to present to MDEQ when YCUA applies for an installation permit. Mr. Blackburn added that he met with one of the landfill operators still currently accepting the Authority’s sludge, who was honest in saying that YCUA is very close to losing discharge privileges there. He indicated that, if that were to happen, the Authority would have to haul the biosolids to Kalkaska, which is a four-hour drive. Mr. Blackburn explained that such a travel distance would allow for only one truckload a day, whereas YCUA needs to transport three to four truckloads a day.

Mr. Doe inquired as to whether controlling the odor from the sludge will reduce the cost of landfilling. Mr. Blackburn responded that the ultimate goal is to regain the Authority’s access to Arbor Hills Landfill, where there are no discharge fees up to a certain tonnage. Mr. Castro interjected that YCUA has no control over the increased hydrogen sulfide at the headworks and that staff is trying to determine why it has increased.

Ms. Stumbo commented that the Authority has spent a lot of money to try to address the odor issues surrounding a naturally odorous product and that it is a work in progress.

Mr. Jason commented that, going forward, it would be beneficial to have a time table included in any proposals being labeled as a pilot project.

In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)

C. Request to Approve – Authorization to Seek Bids re: Refurbishment of 1999 Sterling Dump Truck (O & M Expense Account No. 901-597)
– Keenen Crump for Bob Fry

Motion by Doe to provide Authorization to Seek Bids re: Refurbishment of 1999 Sterling Dump Truck (O & M Expense Account No. 901-597). Support by Bodary.

Mr. Crump advised the Board that this dump truck body has been repaired once and needs to be replaced. He indicated that a new body costs about $16,000 to $20,000 and that refurbishment of the entire truck will cost about $55,000 to $60,000. Mr. Crump explained that the dump body is about one-third of the total refurbishing cost. He pointed out that the truck is mechanically sound and the engine has considerable life left. Mr.
Crump also explained that, by refurbishing, YCUA will avoid the costs and other issues surrounding the new emission controls. He further advised that diesel engines are not designed to idle for long periods of time and that, when carbon builds up in the exhaust, it causes the engine to go through a regeneration to burn off the excess carbon. Mr. Crump stated that, when driving in the city, the parameters are not met for a regeneration so the truck needs to be parked for a regeneration which can take up to an hour.

He acknowledged that the truck has logged 9,191 hours and that the motor has 70,194 miles on it. Mr. Crump confirmed that the truck has a Caterpillar engine and an Allison transmission. He explained that the approximate cost of a new dump truck is $125,000 to $150,000 whereas the refurbishing estimate is $55,000 to $60,000. Mr. Crump pointed out that refurbishment will consist of removing the engine, disassembling major components, sandblasting the chassis, replacing the brakes and wiring harness for the dump bed, changing positive and negative battery cables, rebuilding the front suspension and steering components, replacing the floor-mount gas and brake pedals with dash-mounts, replacing the leaf-spring suspension with air bags, and replacing the dump body. He also stated that the Authority has three other dump trucks in its fleet: a 2006, a 2008, and a 2009.

Mr. Doe inquired as to what the value and life expectancy of the truck will be after refurbishing. Mr. Crump responded that staff hopes it will last another 10 to 12 years. Mr. Doe inquired as to the normal life of a diesel engine. Mr. Crump responded about 200,000 miles or more. Mr. Bodary interjected that it is better to look at hours than miles because idling time is high on a truck like this and they don’t get the mileage of an over-the-road truck.

He added that YCUA is better off refurbishing an older vehicle because the emissions controls on trucks built after 2010 have not been perfected. Ms. Stumbo interjected that the township’s fire trucks experience this as well.

Mr. Ichesco inquired as to the refurbishing will include the interior, seats, window regulators, gauges, etc. Mr. Crump responded that those components are still in really good shape thanks to good care by employees and that there is no rust on the cab.

In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)
D. Request to Approve – Purchase of Yeoman's Aspirator in the Amount of $29,994 (O & M Expense Account No. 901-550) – Stacey L. Reynolds

Motion by Doe to approve Purchase of Yeoman's Aspirator in the Amount of $29,994 (O & M Expense Account No. 901-550). Support by Bodary.

Mr. Reynolds advised the Board that this aspirator is one of four in the solids blend mixing tanks and that it has broken down. He indicated that the cost to repair it is about $23,825, which is 80% of the cost of a replacement. Mr. Reynolds explained that the aspirator is seven years old and the expected lifespan is six to 10 years in a corrosive environmental like the one at YCUA.

In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)

E. Fund Balance Report – Dwayne Harrigan

Informational only; no motion from the Board required.


Informational only; no motion from the Board required.


Informational only; no motion from the Board required.

H. Attorney’s Report – Thomas E. Daniels

Mr. Daniels advised the Board that staff has been working with a team involved in the sale of the 335-acre General Motors Powertrain plant property for the ACM autonomous vehicle technology and development program. He indicated that the parties include Ypsilanti Township, the Michigan Economic Corporation, and other entities that have been created to bring the project to fruition. Mr. Daniels explained that the team is hoping to close on the transaction on November 4th.

He pointed out that, as part of the purchase process, a number of water and sewer easements on the property have been identified through an extensive title search. Mr. Daniels also explained that, in conjunction with the township and YCUA, five easements were identified that are no longer in use, with dates ranging from 1949 to 1964, which the ACM group has asked the Authority to release. He further advised that staff is confident that these five easements can be released and termination and release of easement agreements have been prepared. Mr. Daniels stated that staff is recommending that the YCUA Board of Commissioners approve the signing of the releases, which will then be considered by the Township Board of Trustees on November 1st.
Motion by Doe to support to the attorney’s recommendation for the termination of the five easements as stated. Support by Bodary. In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)

Motion by Doe Support by Bodary

I. **Director’s Report** - Jeff Castro

There was no Director’s Report for the month.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:** There was no Old Business for the month.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no Other Business for the month.

6. **STATEMENTS AND CHECKS:** Motion by Ichesco to pay the bills in the amount of $3,634,821.99. Support by Doe. In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments for the month.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Doe to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 p.m. Support by Bodary. In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)

Respectfully submitted,

JON R. ICHESCO, Secretary - Treasurer