

THE SCREVEN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
JUNE 3, 2021

The Board of Commissioners of Screven County, Georgia, Mr. Will Boyd, Chairman, Mr. J.C. Warren, Vice-Chairman, Ms. Allison Willis, Mr. John O. Triplett, Mr. Edwin Lovett and Ms. Rosa Romeo met for the purpose of a workshop to discuss Solid Waste operations at 6:30 P.M. on June 3, 2021, in the Commissioners' meeting room. Mr. Mike Dixon was absent.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Ms. Lori Burke, Interim County Manager, Mr. Paul Keller Newton, Mr. Tommy O'Barr, Mr. Michael Newton, Mr. Sam Sullivan, Mr. Ralph Evans, Mr. Tyler Oglesby, Ms. Jessica Szilagyi, Ms. Marti Walker, Mr. Brad Clem, Ms. Deena Sheffield, Ms. Laura Mills

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order. Commissioner Triplett gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Lovett made a motion approve the agenda. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION

Chairman Boyd opened the meeting to the Board to openly discuss the Screven County Solid Waste operations. Chairman Boyd asked County Attorney Hubert Reeves to give his opinion on the current contracts for collection, hauling and disposal with Allgreen Services, LLC. County Attorney Hubert Reeves stated that his legal opinion is the county is currently in a five (5) year annually renewable agreement for collection and disposal and the term will expire on June 30, 2024 and from his memory that term was done to substantiate the cost that would be incurred by the company providing the service. The current transportation agreement is in effect until December 31, 2022, so it is a year to year agreement. Commissioner Willis asked if the transportation agreement had an automatic renewal term. Attorney Reeves stated it is for one (1) year terms unless the county gives

thirty (30) days prior notice to not renew. Commissioner Willis asked if Attorney Reeves could read the terms of the collection and disposal agreement. County Attorney read the terms “The term of this Agreement is five (5) annually renewable terms from the start date of October 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2024. Each annual term will coincide with the County’s budget year which is from July 1 to June 30. This agreement may be extended for additional years by the mutual agreement of both parties. Either party may request an extension of the terms by making such request at least 60 days prior to the termination date of June 30, 2024”. Commissioner Willis asked if it was the Attorney’s legal opinion that the county is locked into the agreement until June 30, 2024. County Attorney Hubert Reeves confirmed. Commissioner Willis stated that during negotiations of the hospital contract Mr. Reeves stated the Board could not enter into a multi-year lease agreement pursuant to the 36.30.13 rule that was sent to the Board and she finds it problematic that we can’t enter into a multi-year contract with the hospital but we can with the Allgreen contract. County Attorney Hubert Reeves stated there are provisions in the hospital contract to get out of the agreement to protect the county, although, the intent of that agreement is an eight (8) year agreement. Attorney Reeves stated that his opinion is if you terminate this agreement you are subjecting the county to a law suit. Commissioner Willis asked “What if this current contract was originated despite the current law on the books that says, the said Board of Commissioners shall be the purchasing agent the said county and all purchases which amount to more than \$500.00 shall be made on bids, with the right reserved to reject all bids or on competitive quotations from two or more persons unless a majority of said Board by a formal vote shall adjudge such procedures impractical”. Commissioner Willis asked if there was a formal vote not to bid the Allgreen contract. Mr. Reeves stated there was a vote to approve the contract. Ms. Willis stated it was not in the minutes to not bid the contract and Mr. Reeves stated it didn’t have to be. Commissioner Warren stated he understood that the county did not have to bid services and Mr. Reeves agreed. Commissioner Willis stated that the Board did not follow the local law for bidding. Mr. Reeves stated that the Board decided that the bidding process was impractical by adopting the contract.

Commissioner Willis said “the minutes do not reflect that”. Mr. Reeves stated he is sure the amount has been amended but at this time he does not have it. Commissioner Boyd stated the Board was told they did not have to bid and that is the advice they went with. Commissioner Triplett then asked Sam Sullivan of Allgreen to elaborate on the current contracts with Screven County and the intent of the contracts. Sam Sullivan stated that the contracts are similar to contracts they have with several counties and over the years they have not raised their prices even though the contract says he can and he would like to do whatever he can to keep the business. Mr. Sullivan thinks the new proposal to operate the loader at the transfer station and allow Jenkins County to bring their trash is a great deal that could save money. Commissioner Willis does not think the amount of money would substantiate the wear and tear on our property or roads. Commissioner Triplett talked about current figures pertaining to current operations of the transfer station. Sam Sullivan confirmed there is only approximately 4800 tons of Jenkins County MSW will be brought to Screven County transfer station. Commissioner Willis brought up the fact that the county now has less dumpster sites in the county but we doubled the fee. Chairman Boyd explained that was due to the creation of Special Services Districts and the county can no longer use general fund to support the solid waste operations. The Board then discussed the budgets over the last 5 years for the Sanitation Department. They also talked about due to the fact that the county is not capable of loading trucks to capacity it is costing more money. Commissioner Warren stated that due to the type of bucket on the county’s loader they cannot pack the trucks and in the past Sanitation Director Bobby Smith tried to get people to bid and come in to help and Allgreen was the only company willing to come. Commissioner Warren said all the hard work the Board has done to get the sites done and consolidated and the Board is trying to do what is best for the county. Chairman Boyd talked about how bad the operations were when the county was doing it and the expense of continuing the operations. Chairman Boyd asked Commissioner Willis why she is against taking trash from Jenkins County. Commissioner Willis feels the county is not saving money and the operation is not

efficient. Commissioner Willis and Commissioner Triplett then discussed the budget numbers for fiscal year 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. Commissioner Willis concentrated on the expenses and Commissioner Triplett stated you have to consider the revenue stream to show the operational cost. Commissioner Warren asked if the county was going to consider the new contract or not. Mr. Ralph Evans spoke and said that a lot of county's give in county grace to local contractors who bid on projects and he would like going forward for the Board to consider allowing local businesses to bid to keep our tax dollars local. Commissioner Triplett spoke and stated that a previous workshop was held prior to contracting with Allgreen. Commissioner Willis spoke and said that during that workshop someone asked would it be bid and local people did not know about the work needed because it was not advertised. Commissioner Triplett stated he is working on a bid proposal but the problem, he thinks, with it he thinks it would be hard for someone to invest that much money into a one year contract. Chairman Boyd spoke to Mr. Ralph Evans and said at the time no one local was in the trash business and the only companies were Atlantic Waste and Allgreen Services. Chairman Boyd stated he felt that a majority of the discord now is that Ben Wall is associated with it and he feels that there is a lot of innuendo surrounding the subject and it was never the intent to not include anyone. Commissioner Triplett talked about at the time the county did not know what they actually need so we did not know what to ask for so the Board thought it was best to go with a company that had experience. Commissioner Triplett then discussed the specifics of a current proposal from Allgreen Services, LLC to operate the loader at the transfer station. Mr. Evans and Commissioner Triplett discussed the cost of the overall collection, hauling and disposal. Chairman Boyd talked about the issues the county had when they were collecting, operating and disposing of the counties trash. Mr. Evans asked about the equipment and vehicles the county had and Chairman Boyd stated the truck was being used at the Road Department but agreed with Mr. Evans that the trailers were "dead assets", but the County did not want to sell anything until they knew the new process was going to work. Commissioner Lovett asked if Mr. Evans was interested in leasing the trailers and

Mr. Evans stated he might be interested in leasing or buying. Commissioner Triplett read off the cost some counties are currently paying to dispose their trash. Mr. Evans asked if we have bid the trash to any landfills. Commissioner Triplett stated Allgreen had the advantage due to more volume so their rate was lower. Chairman Boyd stated that with limited resources he felt that Allgreen could do a better job and save money. Commissioner Willis inquired into the time frame of the loader being down and Interim County Manager Lori Burke stated the shop thought they knew what was wrong and when they were wrong they then called CAT to come and look at the equipment. Sam Sullivan stated they have employed locals, they buy fuel local and they feel they are providing a good service to the community and increasing the volume at our transfer station would be beneficial to Screven County. Currently, Allgreen uses Waste Management landfill for disposing. Sullivan stated the flat rate fee on hauling was done because our loader operator was not loading the trucks correctly. Commissioner Willis does not disagree with the consolidating of sites, she just does not think it is saving any money. Mr. Tyler Oglesby asked why can't people pay at the transfer station when they dump. Chairman Boyd stated we are working on a better process for operations at the transfer station and everything that comes across the scale should be billed. Mr. Brad Clem asked if a resident is already paying a fee why does he have to pay as a business to take it to the transfer station. Chairman Boyd informed him that because he was a contractor he will be charged. Commissioner Warren said just let people submit a bid for the hauling at the end of the year but he wants people to understand just because they are the low bid does not mean they will get the bid. Commissioner Willis then said if the service is the same or comparable then we should have to explain to the people why were opted a different bid. Chairman Boyd spoke and said the purpose of this meeting was not to decide about allowing bidding it was to discuss the best way of collecting and disposing of the counties trash economically. Commissioner Willis feels the Board is shutting down anyone who wants the opportunity to bid because of the five (5) year contract. Ms. Marti Walker asked who the current contract is with and Commissioner Triplett stated Allgreen Services,

LLC. She then asked if it was stated in the contract that Atlantic Waste Inc., bought out Allgreen Services, LLC? County Attorney Hubert Reeves stated the Board approved the reassignment of the contracts to Atlantic Waste, Inc. Ms. Walker asked why the citizens were not asked if they wanted the assignment to go to Atlantic Waste, Inc? Chairman Boyd stated that the assignment was approved in open meeting. Mr. Tommy O'Barr discussed the different costs associated with the collection, hauling, disposing, proper management and county doing the collection. Mr. Tyler Oglesby wanted to verify that if he would be interested in bidding the collection would a scope of the work be given and he would like to have the opportunity. Commissioner Triplett said he is working on that now and he feels when the work is bid he would like to see it all bid out together. Commissioner Warren agreed with Commissioner Triplett. Ms. Laura Mills asked if there was a standard for bidding in the county. Commissioner Willis asked if the Board was going to bid loader operations at the transfer station? Commissioner Triplett stated no we might for operations of the loader but the county will continue to operate the transfer station. Commissioner Willis asked if the Board was going to solicit bids for loader operation at the transfer station. Commissioner Lovett feels it is in the best interest of the trucker to load the truck.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 7:53 P.M.

Chairman

Interim County Manager