

# CITY COMMISSION

CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO

WORKSHOP -THURSDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M.

## MINUTES

MAYOR PRO-TEM EVELYN RENFRO READ THE FOLLOWING:

*NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES CITY COMMISSION WILL HOLD A WORKSHOP WITH THE VILLAGE WILLIAMSBURG TRUSTEES ON THURSDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS 405 W. 3<sup>RD</sup>, TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE:*

1. *DISCUSSION/PURPOSE SITE – TRANSFER STATION.*

There is a possibility that a quorum of the City Commission may be in attendance and no official action will be taken.

### In Attendance:

Mayor Pro-Tem Evelyn Renfro ~ City Commissioner Freddie Torres ~

City Commissioner Steve Green

Village of Williamsburg: Mayor Gordon Mishler ~

Mayor Pro-Tem Debbie Stubblefield ~

Trustee Paul McCauley ~ Trustee Don Childers

City of Elephant Butte, City Manager Alan Briley

SCCOG Executive Director Jay Armijo ~ Regional Planner Tony MacRobert

David Weiser, City of Truth or Consequences City Manager ~

Sanitation Director Leonard Carrillo ~ Collection One Andy Alvarez ~

Director of Public Works Jay Gil Avelar

Herald Reporter Kathleen Sloan

***Mayor Pro-Tem Evelyn Renfro opened the meeting for discussion.***

City Manager David Weiser took the podium and explained the timeline regarding the closure of the current City Landfill. Explaining tours of other facilities, pros and cons of the uses of such a facility. In a tour of the Las Cruces facility they felt that between 1.2 and 1.5 million dollars is a good starting estimate to work with.

He spoke of meetings with Sanitation Staff and other Staff, if this is built which way do we go - do we go to Socorro, which right now their cost per cubic yard is about \$30.00 per cubic yard - to dispose of trash or do we go to Las Cruces, Las Cruces right now is \$24.50 per cubic yard, but is slightly further way, to haul. The cost between the two is relatively the same. One of the other advantages of Las Cruces is Las Cruces does have single stream recycling which down the road would be an advantage of Sierra County.

City Manager went on to advise that they had looked at a couple of alternatives after discussions with The City Commission and the Village of Williamsburg Mayor. Mr. Weiser noted they did look at other alternatives. Locations looked at included a couple of places by the shooting range, similar topography to what we have at our recycle center today, which he would reference later in his presentation. Mr. Weiser spoke of definite cost issues; unpaved roads, depending on which route it would take. He noted that Street Superintendent Don Armijo estimated paving cost be between \$700 and 1.3 million dollars depending on which route, and depending on whether City Crews did the work or if we contracted out. Other cost would be electrical upgrades, some type of waste water collection system, whether it is a sewer system or if we could use drain system such as a septic tank. These and other decisions that have yet to be decided and would be in further discussions. Discussion turned to the current Recycle Center topography, having to excavate less, both pro and con. Improvements would cost \$700 and \$800 thousand dollars. Proximately to exit 75, with the number of 50 foot trailers parked in the area would be up to two a day, probably 5 every three days. Routes were discussed, the existing site having a collection stations, and recycling facilities.

Mr. Weiser noted the 7 different issues of concern from the Village of Williamsburg's Mayor, Gorden Mishler had:

*Odor, noise, esthetics, dust, traffic, size of facility, and proximity to potable water wells.*

Mr. Weiser explained proposed plans at the current facility.

Various participants noted differences they had found in the tours of facilities, how each had slight differences; and offered suggestions of remedies for problems which were discussed.

Traffic was discussed, specifically traffic for the Village of Williamsburg; car issues verses truck traffic, various ways to empty semi trucks. Costs were discussed. Issues with paving of roads were discussed. Discussions about various problems having the facility in such close proximity with the residents of Williamsburg were spoken. Some of the remedies other facilities had found were noted.

Commissioner Freddie Torres noted that everyone knew we had to do this, but suggested that “we” look at other options, different places.

Discussion of traffic, alternate ideas were discussed, the possibility of the need for a traffic study were mentioned.

The Village of Williamsburg members noted that the Village had a moratorium on the sewer line at this time.

Commissioner Steve Green acknowledged this did have to be done, but questioned if any financial help had been researched. He did agree with Commissioner Torres in that before any decision that we should look at every possibility that is feasible. There may be other options of funding, and they should be considered.

Tours of other facilities were discussed. It was noted the current route is 26 miles. A discussion of how other facilities found ways to save money and time.

Mayor Mishler suggested that another site should be researched. And all concerned entities should join in funding the facility as they would all be using it.

City Manager Weiser noted that the cost over twenty years to build this facility is roughly 52 cents per family in Sierra County. The cost of running the garbage between Las Cruces and Socorro is between 4 and 5 dollars a month per family in Sierra County. The building of the facility is not going to be the huge cost, it's going to be the operational cost as we go along.

Mayor Mishler spoke of a streamline plant today, but using different ideas from other facilities which have gained the knowledge thru trial.

Recycling was discussed, how residents could bring the recyclables to the facility, how it's separated at the home. It was asked where the oil goes. Leonard Carrillo, Sanitation Director answered that it depended on the oil - each with different collection methods. Discussions of different items such as oil, building materials, tires, and nails being a problem. The tires were a problem, and were discussed in length. City Manager Weiser noted we had a new bailer going in. Water tables, water contaminates, and other items were discussed.

Commissioner Green noted there are more entities we could get involved, where the monies would come from to fund it. That a committee could be formed to answer the questions aired here tonight, to find the funding, to involve all the entities involved.

Mayor Mishler spoke of privatizing the facility.

Both pros and cons were discussed, charges verses doing it ourselves.

Commissioner Evelyn Renfro stated she thought Commissioner Greens' idea to have a committee of different people to meet and discuss this. She did not like putting a transfer or collection station in a residential area.

City of Williamsburg representatives noted there was a possibility of getting monies for the project, but they would have to own it.

Discussions were focused on monies, waste water, raising rates or trying to venture together.

Commissioner Green requested that SCCOG Representatives be involved to pursue funding , start research, look at EPA, take the City Managers' numbers, look at residential area - or putting it someplace out on City Land. See what type of financial help is out there. Maybe consider researching grants, or outright monies, matching funds; double the monies, a JPA. Find and identify funding streams.

Mayor Pro-Tem Renfro agreed the information would help.

Locations were discussed, getting everyone involved was discussed. Finding more information was the consensus.

Commissioner Torres thought we needed to find the location first, taking steps and starting a time line, we have about a year and a half that we have to be open. Work on this for the next seven months. Look for a location, meet more often if needed. Talk to finance and see what is involved, buy some land, see exactly how much money we need, work together to get that money. Run it like a business. Noting the venture would pay back.

Grants were discussed. Williamsburg questioned if they could still put in for a CDBG Grant.

Land was discussed. Land which belongs to HSLD was discussed. Land in other areas was mentioned.

Commissioner Torres suggested meeting again, putting two or three groups from the other entities - working together to come up with a solution.

Commissioner Green asked City Manager Weiser questions regarding visits to any other potential sights.

City Manager Weiser answered no.

Several options were discussed. The way Las Cruces had found out how to avoid more spillage on the outside of the truck. How they fill the trucks. How often the City grades the roads.

Mayor Mishler asked about having to excavate less, but do you have to fill? Various different items regarding water tables and other issues were spoken of. Expenses were questioned, compaction issues that may arise.

Commissioner Renfro noted that she thought all three Commissioners there were not completely in favor of the Facility going into the location mentioned. She thinks the next move should be for the City Manager to meet with the Mayor from Williamsburg the City Manager or Mayor for the City of Elephant Butte, and the county; get together and who is going to pitch in to build it, then more options as land available or accessible. Get together and start the footwork, get the information for their entities. Have another workshop, or whatever. Meet as often as need until the work gets done.

Discussion moved to drainage, having to pump water, location problems.

Commissioner Torres agreed that we needed to work on a different location.

Commissioner Green asked questions regarding Gordon Environmental and the project. He also suggested that other locations need to be researched; funding needed to be considered and concentrate on where to put it.

The length of time involved was approximately 22 months to make this happen.

It was noted that the public would have to be educational lesson in recycling, to help them control their own sanitation rates.

Using private contractors would need to be considered. Cost for dumping and those questions of cost effectiveness would need to be considered. The problem of tires needed to be considered. Illegal dumping was discussed. Loans and grants were discussed along with USDA funding, funding limits and other options were discussed, other streams of revenue would need to be discussed, building and operating. State Representatives could be involved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Renfro noted that Mr. Weiser he needed to be the one in charge of getting all together, of setting up a meeting and getting the people there. The City Commission needed to be kept informed of meetings, news and reports to different entities. Then if there is a decision is to be made bring it back to the Commission, so that everyone keeps informed.

***Consensus of all in attendance was for City Manager Weiser to go back to the drawing board and return when further information and all questions are answered.***

ADJORNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVAL: Passed and approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, 2011 on motion duly made by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and carried.

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Evelyn

Renfro, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

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Judy M. Harris, Deputy City Clerk