

**Open Work Session**  
**Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment**  
**January 16, 2018**

Mr. Weston Young, Assistant Director of Administration, came before Council. Mr. Young said, around 2015 or 2016, they brought this before Council. He said this is a ten-year Solid Waste Plan that is required by the State for their Solid Waste Department outlining what they are looking at in terms of how they handle Solid Waste, how they handle recycling, etc. He said, as part of getting a permit to expand the landfill, they need to modify this document to include expansion. He clarified, they previously did not think expansion was an option, so they added that on there. He said, in addition, the consultants made some other minor changes which start on Page 32 in the document. He said it goes into the alternatives considered, and why doing an expansion rather than putting a new landfill elsewhere makes sense. He said they already will utilize the same scale house and the same riser house, so there is a lot of infrastructure they would not have to put in by keeping it adjacent. He said it touches on other alternatives for that, pros and cons, and mentions curbside recycling because it is something that comes up periodically that they have seriously considered. He said one of the sentences kind of nails it for them, and it says "The rural nature of the County outside the City of Salisbury would likely yield relatively small quantities of recyclables for the cost and effort required to run collections trucks." He said they do not have that infrastructure right now, but they could look at it, and they currently have citizens self-sort. He said they are glad citizens do that because it saves them costs. He said Solid Waste and Public Works are actively looking for new locations to replace the City of Fruitland and the Avery Street centers just to give citizens more options. He said there has been some talk with the Town of Delmar trying to help them with increasing their recycling within their corporate limits. He said the end of the document had some minor changes as well that, basically, talked about the short-term to long-term planning for the landfill. He said Council has seen the document before, and these are just minor changes, primarily to include expansion of the landfill, and that is one of the requirements of the permitting process. Mr. Cannon asked Mr. Young if the highlighted sections are what he did, to which Mr. Young responded, it is what has changed. Mr. Dodd asked, with the different changes in recycling, is the County still around 35 percent, to which Mr. Young responded, they have been closer to 45 percent. He said what makes that impressive is that percentage is based on the tonnage of trash that came in each year, and they have seen an uptick. He said they typically average 100,000 tons of waste a year coming to the landfill. He said for the calendar year 2016 they had 120,000 tons, so a 20 percent increase in the amount of trash that is coming in. He said they have maintained a recycling rate equivalent to that, so their recycling would have to go up 20 percent to hold the 40 to 45 percent that they have been. He said kudos to all the businesses and citizens who recycle. He said they are looking at other opportunities, and other avenues for recycling different products themselves. He said the Solid Waste Division puts in a lot of hard work to keep it cost effective in terms of profitability and selling. He said they have Somerset and Dorchester Counties bringing their recyclables to Wicomico County. He said they bale it so it at least saves them that process, and then they can build up quantities of recyclables that some of the bigger companies out there are willing to bid on. Mr. Joe Holloway said he knows that recyclables have gone down in price quite a bit, to which Mr. Young responded, recyclables have gone down in price, and it seems like it is only going to get worse. He said a lot of it goes to China, and they have had some contamination issues, so they are getting very picky. He said he thinks they call it Operation Green Sword, but they are getting very picky about what recyclables they will bring in, and they have been known to send whole shipping barges back to the countries that sent them if they did not meet their criteria. He said, with all this expansion talk, he wants to make sure everybody understands that they are proud of their recycling rate, and they hope to only make it go up with those

efforts because that will extend the life of their landfill even further, and there are a lot of benefits to that. Mr. Young said this will require a Public Hearing, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, it has to be advertised two times, so the earliest they could have the Public Hearing is February 6, 2018. There was no further discussion.

  
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John T. Cannon, President

  
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Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3

  
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Ernest F. Davis, District 1

  
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Marc Kilmer, District 2

  
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John B. Hall, District 4

  
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Joe Holloway, District 5

  
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Matt Holloway, At-Large

  
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Laura Hurley, Council Administrator