



Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

11:00 A.M.

Members Present:

Mayor – Alan Barfoot, Township of Georgian Bluffs
Mayor – Bob Pringle, Township of Chatsworth
Deputy Mayor – Dwight Burley, Township of Georgian Bluffs

Members Absent:

Deputy Mayor – Terry McKay, Township of Chatsworth

Staff Present:

Chief Administrative Officer – Murray Hackett, Township of Georgian Bluffs
Chief Administrative Officer - Will Moore Township of Chatsworth
Operations Manager – Chris Thompson, Township of Georgian Bluffs
Biodigester Operator – Troy Unruh, Township of Georgian Bluffs
Operations Assistant- Desirée van Dijk, Township of Georgian Bluffs

Other:

Ross Slaughter, Senior Environmental Engineer, Genivar
Rick Chappell, Ministry of the Environment
Nina Koskenoja, Engineering Specialist, Waste Management Policy Branch,
Ministry of the Environment
David Shouldice, Agricultural Environmental Officer, Ministry of the Environment

Haulers Present:

Gary Grady – Owen Sound Septic Services Inc.
Vaughn Lawrence - Grey Bruce Septic Service Ltd.
Tara Horton – Wilton Sanitation Inc.
Don Marshall – Marshall's Septic Pumping
Doug Schaus – Doug Schaus
Ron Nickason – Nickason Ron Septic Tank Pumping & Installations
Wayne Davidson – D&D Septic Tank
Scott Field – Field Septic Tank
Roger Barrette – Roger Barrette OASIS

1. Call to Order:

Georgian Bluffs Mayor Alan Barfoot called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

2. Introduction and brief project history of Biodigester project and purpose of meeting:

Mayor Barfoot welcomed attendees and asked all attendees to introduce themselves. Haulers indicated whether or not they have dumped at the Biodigester

3. Site Location, description of Biodigester site and methods of collection and disposal:

Ross Slaughter pointed out the location of the site in relation to the two townships.

A layout of the facility was shown and details of the operation explained.

Capacity of the facility was explained.

Dumping and card system was outlined.

4. Outline of general procedures:

Chris Thompson added information on general operations. Haulers provided comments on feasibility of load size, timing for dumping.

Bob Pringle commented on the challenge of staggering loads.

Roger Barrette suggested increasing storage size, particularly for emergency purposes.

5. Comment of proposed septage disposal procedures by MOE:

Rick Chappell and Nina provided comments from an MOE perspective. The province provided over \$800,000 of funding to this first municipal biodigester in Ontario. The MOE will continue to work with the project as it develops.

Mayor Barfoot mentioned the need for everyone to work together to ensure digestate stays within the municipalities and goes to the Biodigester.

Bob Pringle gave credit to Rick Chappel for coordinating a previous meeting with the MOE which provided the impetus for this meeting.

Dave Shouldice suggested septic system inspections may be a good thing to add as part of "it's the environmentally right thing to do". Dave also mentioned the importance of adding the enforcement component.

6. Question & Answer Period:

Dwight Burley asked how many haulers would be needed to service the two municipalities. It was mentioned that it is currently a free market and anyone should be allowed to haul. The RFP should not limit the number of haulers.

Don Marshall suggested a one time fee to ratepayers to set up a reserve fund, through which residents could borrow funds to repair a septic system. This was suggested to be more useful than inspections.

Ron Nickason pointed out that haulers may have a hard time getting their tipping fees back from ratepayers. Also, larger households should be pumped more frequently, so it will have to be clear that 5 years is not the right timeline for everyone.

Haulers asked what is the cost to process 800 gallons?
Ross Slaughter indicated we don't have a breakdown cost as material varies.
Roger Barrette suggested looking at a study done some time ago which gives the breakdown in Grey County.

Who pays the extra mileage when there is one tank from much further away?

Someone suggested using an invoice system that would go to the township.
Another indicated a letter would be better.

Gary Grady suggested lowering the fee per m³ may help to "sell" the idea to residents.

The idea of cost from overhead plus operating averaged over the whole system. Averaging the cost of travelling whatever distance, regardless of resident's location within the municipality.

Suggestion was made to let homeowners hire whoever they want to pump, and the disposal fee becomes part of the tax base.

Roger Barrette mentioned the importance of small businesses in the community and hopefully if an RFP was used, it will make it possible for small business to be successful bidder.

Dave Shouldice added it would be good to add the ability to obtain monies for the repair of wells to the septic program, should that avenue be pursued.

7. Next Meeting:

Another meeting with the haulers will be set in the near future. Preference was shown for an evening meeting. This portion of the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

8. Meeting reconvened:

The Board reconvened at 1:35pm to meet with Rick Chappell to de-brief the meeting.

A legal opinion is being obtained by MOE regarding renewing permits with the proviso that haulers take sewage collected to the Biodigester. Rick Chappell clarified that provincial regulations would trump municipal by-law.

Rick and Murray will discuss respective legal opinions once obtained.

Bob Pringle suggested labelling it an environmental fee.

Facility needs to be able to handle capacity before more sewage is brought in – particularly with regards to bar screens – they will need to be scraped after each load. Ross Slaughter provided an overview of the required facility improvements, being a trash removal system, a new 230m³ concrete storage tank, an extension of the water line and possible a new odour control system.

A loan program, along with the environmental fee, would be a good fit.

C of A would require amendment to build storage tank. Rick indicated this approval could be expedited.

Ross and Chris will proceed with the RFP for digestate removal.

9. Next meeting:

Friday, April 12, 2013 at 8:00a.m. in the Georgian Bluffs Council Chambers.

10. Adjournment:

The Biodigester Joint Board meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. on a motion moved by Bob Pringle and seconded by Alan Barfoot to meet again on Friday, April 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in the Township of Georgian Bluffs Council Chambers.

Mayor – Alan Barfoot

Recording Secretary –
Desirée van Dijk