



Commission Meeting

August 1, 2023

Augusta Solid Waste Management Program and Environmental Services Functions - Associated Resolutions & Policies

Review, Discussion and Best Way Forward

File Reference: 23 – 014(A)

Department:	Engineering & Environmental Services
Presenter:	Dr. Hameed Malik, Director
Caption:	Augusta County-Wide Solid Waste Management Program associated Environmental Services Functions – Augusta Commission Resolutions & associated Policies Review, Discussion, and Best Way Forward. Requested by Engineering
Background:	<p>i) On May 15, 2001, Augusta Commission adopted a resolution that established the Solid Waste Management District and establish assessment of the annual cost of waste collection against property owners. Established annual cost and charges rate was \$195.00 per year per unit. Service area consists of “Urban Service District” and targeted “Suburban Service District”.</p> <p>ii) On December 19, 2005, adopted a resolution establishing appropriate rate of charge by full and partial unit for solid waste collections services and other purposes. The resolution included provision making up solid waste collection funds deficit and repayment of 2004 solid waste bond. The resolution established annual cost and charges rate was \$276.00 per year per unit (for a full service unit) and subject to annual adjustment using the customer price index (CPI).</p> <p>iii) On July 8, 2013, Augusta Commission adopted a resolution to provide an appropriate fee system and exemption(s) from services for collection of solid waste, recyclables and other purposes. The resolution also established a county wide waste collection service area effective June 1, 2013. The resolution also includes provisions covering cost of Environmental Services provided functions (including repayment of Revenue Bonds) in this fee based system; services such as repayment of solid waste 2004 & 2010 Revenue Bonds, and funding Environmental Services Operations. Other key provisions are:</p> <p>a) The resolution directs and authorizes Environmental Services Director to establish policies regarding “fees and charges for functions provided through Environmental Services”.</p>

- b) Fee shall be adjusted annually by an amount equal to the CPI as listed in Solid Waste and Recycling Contract.
 - c) In the event that franchise fees, taxes, in lieu of tax regulatory fees other governmental fees are imposed against the Environmental Services Operations; this cost may be amended into the Environmental Services fees.
 - d) Should estimated amount of bad debt increase, the fees may be amended to reflect the anticipated increase in bad debt expense.
- iv) On June 4, 2013, Environmental Services Director implemented the following three policies.

1) ESDP-POL-001 Solid Waste and Recycling Exemptions

2) ESDP-POL-002 ** Lot Cutting and Cleaning Fees

**Revision “rev.1” issued in November 2008.

rev.1 expanded ESDP-POL-002 Vacant Lot cutting/cleaning hourly rate

3) ESDP POL-003 Solid Waste Collection Fee

[rate set \$310.50 per year per unit (for a full service unit)]

Analysis:

Review of resolutions and policies cited above under Background Section reveals that:

- i) unit rate set in 2013 was not adjusted annually by an amount equal to the CPI as listed in Solid Waste and Recycling Contract [\$310.50 vs \$370.83 w/ CPI adjustment), and
- ii) Unit rate set in 2013 was not amended to include pass through fees such as Franchise Fees, in lieu of tax, and other fees imposed against the Environmental Services. [>\$2,074,830 or \$35/unit]

Financial Impact:

N/A

Alternatives:

Not Proposed

Recommendation:

Augusta County Wide Solid Waste Management Program associated Environmental Services Functions – Augusta Commission Resolutions & associated Policies Review, Discussion, and Best Way Forward. Requested by Engineering

Funds are available in the following accounts:

N/A

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

HM/SR