

BRAINTREE BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

December 30, 2010

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Philip Nedelman, Chairman
Paula Dowd, Vice Chairman

ALSO PRESENT: Marybeth McGrath, Director of ML & I

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Nedelman called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Request from Covanta Energy/SEMASS for approval to open and operate the Braintree Transfer Station located on Ivory Street on Saturday January 1, 2011.**

Present: Len Landry, General Manager-Braintree Transfer Station
Peter Morin, Chief of Staff & Operation-Town of Braintree

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that Mr. Landry, the General Manager of the Braintree Transfer Station contacted her on Tuesday January 28, 2010 to advise that due to the Christmas holiday that the transfer station was closed on Saturday December 25, 2010. Furthermore, the transfer station was closed on Monday December 27, 2010, and no trash collections occurred due to a snow storm. Due to these factors, trash collections are backed up creating much more waste coming into the transfer station throughout the remainder of the week.

In light of these factors, Covanta Energy and Mr. Landry felt that because of the anticipation of a substantial back log of waste occurring, that they would need to request an emergency opening of the transfer station on Saturday January 1, 2011. As Saturday January 1, 2011 is a holiday, the transfer station would normally be closed on this day.

Ms. McGrath advised that the Braintree Transfer Station is normally opened on Saturdays until 12:00pm (noon), and because of the backlog of potential waste that they may receive from the 55 communities that they serve, Covanta Energy is requesting that they be allowed to remain opened until 7:00pm on Saturday January 1, 2011 which is the normal weekday closing hour, and also be allowed until 9:00pm to remove all of the waste from the tipping floor.

Additionally, if they are not able to remove all of the waste from the tipping floor nightly between December 30, 2010 through January 1, 2011, they will be required to have a fire detail stationed on-site.

Dr. Nedelman inquired of Mr. Landry, if approved how he will be letting the cities/towns that they serve know that the Transfer Station will be opened on Saturday January 1, 2011.

Mr. Landry advised that after this meeting, there will be a flurry of emails that will be going out. Also, they have been communicating with the cities/towns throughout the week. He further advised that considering the ramifications of the storm and anticipating an issue of trash accumulation, they started the emergency request process on Tuesday December 28, 2010. The issue has lessened, but is still out there. It is a combination of the municipal collection which has been delayed. Most communities started collecting on Tuesdays regular collection, and whatever space was remaining in the trucks, then were going back into Mondays regular collection to pick up. The hope is that the Monday regular collections will be caught up by Friday, but they will not know that until Saturday morning. Compounding all of this is the commercial establishments which are cleaning out their lots, and in an effort to clean out their lots they pile the snow up against the containers that they cannot get to. So, even though they know the containers are out there and they can drive to them, they cannot pull them out because they are stuck in a snow bank or cannot get them out because of the snow. So, some of those will be picked up.

Mr. Landry advised that given the information that they have gathered to date, they anticipate receiving up to approximately 300 to 350 tons on Saturday and could be closed by 3:00pm. However, if any issues come up, such as a neighborhood that was not picked up, the tonnage could increase a bit more.

Mr. Morin reiterated the importance of the fire detail for any trash left overnight on the tipping floor, should that occur. He further advised that Mayor Sullivan or he has any objection to this request. It is a slight modification of a normal Saturday, and meets a compelling public health and safety interest.

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that the DEP has already issued an emergency approval to both the Rochester plant as the receiving plant, and the Braintree Transfer Station. The Braintree Transfer Station is simply for the hours of operation. There will be no increase in tonnage.

Ms. McGrath recommended the Board consider approval of this public health request.

Motion By: Mrs. Dowd to approve the opening of the Braintree Transfer Station on Saturday January 1, 2011 until 7:00pm, and if any waste is to remain overnight on the tipping floor that a fire detail be hired.

Second By: Dr. Nedelman

Motion By: Mrs. Dowd to adjourn the meeting at 1:11pm.

Second By: Dr. Nedelman