

Board of County Commissioners

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C. Richard Weaver, Vice President
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of County Commissioners Highlights from February 25, 2016

Westminster, Thursday, February 25, 2016 – The Board of County Commissioners received public comment on the proposed changes to tipping fees at the Northern Landfill and Hoods Mill Landfill. After discussion, the original proposal was amended to increase the per ton charge for municipal solid waste to \$64/ton with no automatic annual increases. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Howard opposing. The rate changes will become effective July 1, 2016. The new fees will be:

	Northern Landfill	Hoods Mill
Per ton charge for municipal solid waste	\$64.00	\$68.00
Flat rate charge to automobiles for residential waste per vehicle	\$7.00	\$8.00
Scrap tires, off the rim (per tire)	\$2.50	\$2.50
Scrap tires, on the rim (per tire)	\$3.50	\$3.50
Commercial tire fee, per ton	\$150.00	n/a
Construction/demolition debris and sewage sludge, per ton	\$80.00	\$80.00*
Minimal disposal fee	\$7.00	\$8.00

*sewage sludge is not accepted at Hoods Mill

Both Commissioner Wantz and Commissioner Rothschild echoed the public comments regarding the need to explore new technology for waste disposal.

The proposal to replace the baffles at Hap Baker Firearms Facility was approved. The facility operates as an enterprise fund and the cost of the replacement is covered by the facility’s user fees. Every attempt will be made to schedule this work during the facility’s non-public hours.

The Department of Land and Resource Management will be applying for a grant from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for facility retrofit and micro-bioretenion facilities in Hampstead. The proposed work would combine two facilities and include additional enhancements. This is the first time the grant is available to non-coastal communities and the concept has been favorably received by DNR. Although the Department is able to cover costs for this project, seeking grant funding will allow these dollars to be spent on other projects. The Department now waits for approval from DNR.

CARROLL COUNTY

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Commissioner Howard asked his fellow Commissioners to request input from the Board of Education on the Career and Tech School proposal as stated in the current Capital Plan. At the present time, there is a wait list for students to be admitted into the Career and Technical programs in addition to students being turned away. Commissioner Howard is proposing that alternatives to the proposed capital project be considered. The Commissioners agreed that this discussion should occur as part of their budget process.

Commissioner Howard also suggested the creation of a Communications Department. "The most critical thing we do is communications," stated Commissioner Howard. He estimates that the cost will be neutral and would coordinate and consolidate existing resources. The Commissioners agreed to place the item on a future agenda.

The Commissioners emphasized their commitment to regular and ongoing meetings with the municipalities and the Board of Education. In order to better facilitate these meetings, Commissioner Frazier suggested that the meeting with the Municipalities be rescheduled and a tentative agenda be sent out with the proposed meeting date. The Commissioners would like to discuss the economic impact of the proposed school closures as well as the Main Street programs that many of the municipalities have in place.

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