

Present: Michael Halley, Martha Rasmussen, Jessica Ledger-Kalen, Kevin Flanagan, Darrel Bisgard, Laverne DeBoef

### Points of discussion

Halley welcomed Laverne DeBoef of DeBoef Grinding, a New Sharon company that provides tub grinding services for wood, organic waste, hay, and other commercial, industrial, and agricultural needs. DeBoef grinds the compost material for the Lee County waste authority as well as several other southeast Iowan communities. Halley recapped the history of Fairfield's former yard waste dumping site at the wastewater plant that was shut down due to ongoing construction at the site. At the end of 2012 the city entered into an agreement with FEDA to lease a lot of land at the end of South 20<sup>th</sup> St for a community compost site. Initially only yard waste (branches, leaves, grass clippings) will be permitted, though the city will experiment with a small amount of food waste. There are also local companies who currently throw out large numbers of pallets who are interested in having them ground up for composting.

DeBoef shared his rates: \$450/hr with a 6 hr minimum plus a \$250 mobilization fee. He felt confident that he could finish grinding Fairfield's material within the 6 hours and could possibly waive the mobilization fee if he scheduled the work in conjunction with other neighboring clients. The city of Washington pays him to grind their material three times a year, though Fairfield's schedule may be twice a year after the spring and fall brush pickups. If the companies with pallets require more frequent visits then a payment system can be worked out to cover the expense. Although the cost of compost shredding services falls well below the state requirements for competitive bidding the city will open up bidding to all interested parties.

Bisgard gave an estimated cost of \$1,500 for installing a gate and fencing at the compost site. Flanagan and Bisgard will work together to find the necessary funds to have the gate installed prior to the spring brush pickup. The city will also coordinate with Waste Management to have their yard waste bags dropped off at our location. Bisgard said that he will likely leave the community mulch pile behind Hy-Vee open but move all the material from behind O'Reilly's to the new site.

Flanagan described a potential alternative use for the public restroom building adjacent to the courtyard at the corner of Burlington and HWY 1. It could be renovated and utilized as a city Environmental Planning & Sustainability Center housing the city's sustainability coordinator and possible support staff. Funding would likely need to be split 50/50 with ISU Extension as it has historically been with our sustainability coordinator. Flanagan will continue to research this possible and inform committee on any new developments.

### Recommendations/Actions

Halley will communicate with local companies interested in using a pallet grinding service to gauge interest in the program.