

A special meeting of the Gratiot Area Solid Waste Authority was called to order at 11:11 a.m. in the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum of the Authority was present.

Roll Call

Present: Aeris Ripley and Kurt Giles.

Absent: none.

Others present: Jami Anderson – Granger Waste Services and Kevin Beeson – Pine River Township Supervisor.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Giles, seconded by Ripley, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Giles, seconded by Ripley, to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026, as presented. Motion carried.

Other Business – Discussion on Possible Contract Extension

Motion by Giles, seconded by Ripley, to open discussion of proposed rates and a possible extension of the current contract for Solid Waste & Recyclables Collection. Motion carried.

Ripley noted proposed rates for extension of the current contract with Granger Waste Services had been provided and added if both cities agree to an extension, the proposed rates would increase 5% for each of the two additional years.

Giles asked if the same fuel charge provisions would apply. Jami Anderson, Granger Waste Services, who was present to answer questions, indicated there are currently no fuel surcharges. The group discussed the provision in the current contract and Anderson said the provision is included, but no fuel surcharges have been implemented for any of their contracted municipalities. She added there is a current 3% surcharge for the recycling facility.

Giles asked if the proposed increase would be Granger's best offer. Anderson said yes and provided current rate information for individual subscribers.

Giles asked if rates would be affected if Pine River Township were to join the Authority. Anderson said there would be a rate separate for the township from the city due to less density in the township. The group discussed current rates in the township and options for adding recycling. Anderson offered to take the question to leadership and bring back a proposal.

Beeson asked about materials management and discussion followed regarding different options for collection of recyclables and requirements for submitted materials management plans. Anderson indicated Gratiot County is currently required to have curbside recycling by 2028. Additional discussion followed regarding large item collection and where the items collected are sent for disposal.

Giles asked if the proposal for contract extension would be the same as the current contract and Anderson replied services would remain the same. Giles asked for data regarding the tonnage of recycling versus trash. Anderson agreed to send the information she had available. Discussion continued regarding recyclables and options for recyclables collection.

Giles asked when Granger would need a decision on the proposal and Anderson asked if anything else was needed to make a decision. Giles asked for additional data on the bulk item pickup. Discussion returned to the fuel surcharge provision in the contract.

Beeson said he didn't see any reason for Pine River Township to hold up the contract for the Authority, but if there was an opportunity to make recycling more convenient, they would be open to joining the Authority. Additional brief discussion followed regarding large item collection. Beeson said blight has reduced significantly since they started the monthly collection.

Giles indicated the proposal could be presented to the St. Louis City Council and Alma City Commission and an answer might be available in September.

Motion by Giles, seconded by Ripley, to close the discussion at 11:48 a.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Giles, seconded by Ripley, to receive financial reports. Motion carried.

Public comment: none.

Motion by Giles, seconded by Ripley, to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 a.m. Motion carried.

Sara Anderson, Recording Secretary

Date of Approval