



**TO:** Mayor Shaun Sipma  
Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Jason Sorenson, Asst. Director of Public Works

**DATE:** October 23, 2018

**SUBJECT:** LANDFILL EXPANSION (PROJECT NUMBER 4264)

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**I. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Recommend council select the landfill expansion option and direct staff to proceed.

**II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS**

Dan Jonasson, Public Works Director	857-4140
Jason Sorenson, Assistant Public Works Director	857-4140

**III. DESCRIPTION**

A. Background

The City of Minot has been seeking land to expand the landfill dating back to 2002. The current landfill, as permitted, has capacity until about 2025. In 2017, after years of negotiations, two quarter sections of land were successfully purchased adjacent to the existing facility. The newly acquired land would provide about 50 plus years of capacity.

When the City proceeded to the next step to expand our key infrastructure by rezoning the land for public use, residents in the area of the landfill opposed the expansion plan. In an effort to ensure all comments and concerns were addressed, the City engaged the services of a consultant to perform a siting and cost analysis for relocation of the landfill as well as formed a focus group to talk through issues and concerns. Both of those efforts have come to their conclusions and a public input meeting was held to present the results. Attached to this memo are comments received during the input meeting along with explanations or clarifications. Also included are all comments submitted via the City webpage and Facebook. Below is a categorized table of all comments received:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Expand Landfill</u>	<u>Move Landfill</u>	<u>Unrelated</u>
Emailed Comments	37	30	7	
Social Media	207	59	20	90

\*\*Also about 40 comments related to recycling, which will be discussed in detail at a later date.

The cost analysis compared costs of the expansion versus relocation to two sites that were identified in the site selection process. The analysis took into account capital expenditures and operation costs and extrapolated those costs over a 20 year period. The 20 year estimated cost to expand at the current facility was \$75 million while the estimated cost to relocate was \$111 million or \$114 million for the two relocation sites. In response to

criticism, projections have been extended out to 40 years, but did not change the overall outcome. Due to timing, the 40 year analysis will be included in a presentation to the committee.

B. Proposed Project

Staff recommends that expansion of the landfill be pursued. The expansion would consist of continuing to build solid waste disposal cells south of the existing seven cells and eventually east of the existing cells. The scale house and scales would be moved south to a new entrance off county road 14. This would alleviate the truck traffic that currently runs through a residential development by moving it to a new five lane arterial roadway more appropriate for higher traffic volumes and truck loads.

C. Consultant Selection

CPS Engineering was originally hired to submit the permit application for the landfill expansion. When the decision was made to perform a site selection and cost analysis, the scope of work was modified to keep the project moving forward.

**IV. IMPACT:**

A. Strategic Impact:

Expanding at the current facility provides approximately 50 years of landfill capacity. While the two alternate sites offer capacity potentially beyond 50 years, they come at a much higher cost to residents and regional users.

B. Service/Delivery Impact:

Total relocation would create many inconveniences and inefficiencies with our utility. Residents would still need to be provided a local solution for dropping off trash. Expecting residents to drive 12 miles to a remote site for a small load of trash would become extremely inconvenient to our City residents. Additionally, services such as compost, trees, lime sludge, tire disposal and appliances would become much more costly to operate due to additional trucking distance required. The sanitation department would also need to add additional trucks and employees due to the increased haul distance in order to continue providing the service we currently provide.

C. Fiscal Impact:

Currently City residents pay a fee for collection, but nothing for disposal at the landfill. This is a benefit provided to the citizens of Minot. If the facility were to be relocated, Minot residents would be expected to pay disposal costs for the remote facility. The additional charge for increased costs in collection operation would be about \$1.07 per resident and \$5.97 per resident per month for disposal charges. Monthly sanitation bills on average would increase from \$16.22 per month to \$23.26 per month or about a 43% increase.

**V. ALTERNATIVES**

Alt 1. The City Council could elect to reject the staff recommendation and start the process of relocating the landfill. In this case, council would need to select a preferred site to focus staff's efforts on acquiring and developing.

Alt 2. The City Council could elect to further study the idea of privatizing the landfill or all sanitation services. There currently is no evidence locally of significant cost savings or gained efficiencies. Council will need to specify what components of the project need further study.

**VI. TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Time is of the essence. MSW capacity is only about seven years from being full. The permitting for the expansion alone is estimated to take about 18 months, while permitting and construction of a new site could take up to 5 years to bring into operation. It is imperative that the City has a solution to solid waste disposal in place within the next three years. With all of the unknowns associated with relocation it is doubtful a solution could be put in place that quickly.

**VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Public Input Comments with responses and clarifications
- B. Submitted comments