Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee

 Meeting Minutes

 **March 13, 2024**

**PRESENT**; R. Davis, E. Cabral, C. Cipriano and C. Kowalski

The meeting started at 7:00 pm.

Guests: Jim Lavacchia, Director of Public Works, Adam Yanulis of Tighe and Bond, David Murphy of Tighe and Bond, and Selectman Steve Morse.

**MINUTES**

The committee reviewed the minutes of Feb. 14, 2024
***Minutes from Feb. 14, 2024, were read and approved with a motion by C. Kowalski and a second by C. Cipriano. The motion passed 3-0-1.***

**New Business**

***Tighe and Bond***

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Yanulis were present tonight to go over what their company does and to get input from the committee as to what they are looking to do.

E. Cabral explained that we had a 30% increase in the new contract and are looking to see what direction they should be looking at in the future. They wanted to start looking at where things were going so that in the next few years, they have the ability to plan. The current contract is a five year contract that began on January 1, 2024. J. Lavacchia noted that options to look at would be to stay in the same type of program of the curbside trash/recycling pick up/use the transfer station either for both trash and recycling collection/use the transfer station for just recycling/ or use the transfer station just for trash collection. There is the need to see what the current site could hold as well.

Mr. Yanulis noted that their company has been in business since 1911 and started in Holyoke Massachusetts. They now have 17 offices including one in Portsmouth. Mr. Murphy works out of the Portland Maine office and noted that he has represented municipalities in waste management since 1985. They also reported that there are 6 companies in the area that do what they do.

C. Kowalski wanted to know where they see the industry heading so that we can provide what we need to for the residents.

E. Cabral reported that there seems to be a whole new world out there with many variations. She recently spoke with the Town of Windham, and they have a very different service. She wanted to see what viable options are there if we were to move away from curbside pickup. Do we go to the transfer station or some form of a hybrid or was there something else. The committee is trying to keep an open mind. C. Kowalski suggested an option of pairing up with other towns and maybe each one taking a section such as Hazardous Waste.

J. Lavacchia reported that in Wilton they had a five-town transfer station and the cost per town was based on population. Wilton had the largest population, so their budget was about 40% of the cost and the rest had the cost in their budgets but Wilton ran the transfer station.

Mr. Murphy said that the way it is going is to have it managed, like what we are doing now. He also noted that the committee did a good job with the current contract. He understood the big jump for the first year, because the previous contract was also very good. Each year of the new contract won’t be as big a jump. Mr. Murphy noted that they could do a minimal cost survey as to what the towns around us were doing and the cost for what they were doing. E. Cabral responded that they had done that and know that the cost per household is up $100 to about $310 per household. Maybe an assessment of the Southern NH area and maybe regional to see where we stand. She then asked if the company was able to look at the transfer station and tell us what could be done there and what viable expansion there would be permissible.

J. Lavacchia reported that there was an additional 11 acres there, some wet and some hilly, but overall good land. Mr. Murphy felt that would be enough land to have options.

Mr. Murphy asked if the committee was thinking of an open-air collection site or a closed one. C. Cipriano noted there would be a concern about contamination. C. Kowalski had concerns about liability for something such as a lithium battery getting crushed and creating a fire.

E. Cabral stated that with technology the way it is, they would be able to have cameras to watch is dropped off. There was a question about the two packers, and it was noted that they could be repurposed by putting a funnel into and taking off something else.

Mr. Murphy offered to put together a scope of what they can do and send it to the committee for review. E. Cabral stated that we had done a lot of research on the communities in Southern NH around us. They need to understand the next move and be ready for it. Mr. Yanulis will reach out to Mr. Lavacchia with the scope of the work prior to the next committee meeting.

***The committee thanked Mr. Lavacchia for following up and getting the company here to explain to the committee what is out there.***

***NRRA- Commodity Rates***

Mr. Lavacchia and C. Kowalski both attended the NRRA MOM meeting held today. There was good news in that the cost of fibers have gone up to $115 per ton and the mixed at $65 per ton. There has been a $20 per ton increase in the clean materials. It was also noted that this was the first month that all plastics were in the positive range. It seems that recycling is on the upswing overall.

C. Kowalski also noted that there are grants available such as a “waste to energy grant” that needs to be in by 4/21. This is a grant that may benefit the waste oil burner.

**Old Business**

Kent Farm Transfer Station

The Selectmen held a public hearing on the proposed rate increases at their last meeting on March 11th. The Selectmen approved the increase of the permit to $35, tires to $5 and electronics to $35.

Will need to get the word out whereas some of the permits were sold prior to the change and people would have an outdated flyer.

The DPW department was interested in allowing brush to come in on every bulk day and eliminate the 4 extra days (two in spring and two in fall). The committee thought it was to late to cancel the April and May collection days so agreed to leave those. They were okay with cancelling the two in the fall.

**Member Update**

C. Kowalski noted that there was a food and waste seminar on April 16th/April 17th in Concord and is sponsored by the NRRA. It is free for people to attend.

R. Davis reported that she is brushing up on anerobic digestion which would help if we looked into doing our own composting at the transfer station.

**Upcoming Events**

Curbside Bulk pick up – March 15th and April 20th- Drop off for the Swap Shop

Transfer Station Grand Opening April 13th

Brush Day-April 20th

Swap Shop open April 20th

**NEXT MEETING**

April 10, 2024

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:10 pm by C. Kowalski and seconded by R. Davis.

*The motion passed 4-0*.

Respectfully Submitted, Tina Harrington, Secretary