

Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee
Meeting Minutes
Dec. 13, 2023

PRESENT; R. Davis, E. Cabral (remotely), and C. Kowalski

The meeting started at 7:00 pm.

Guests: Jim Lavacchia, Director of Public Works, attended via Zoom.

A motion was made by C. Kowalski to allow E. Cabral to participate in the meeting via Zoom. The motion was seconded by R. Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes of Nov. 08, 2023

Minutes from Nov. 8, 2023, were read and approved with a motion by C. Kowalski and a second by R. Davis. The motion passed 3-0-0

New Business

J. Lavacchia asked the committee to give him permission to move forward on ordering the new packer from Maguire Equipment and allow him to sign the documentation. He noted that the cost is \$29,917 and the funds will be covered under the ARPA funds, as approved by the Board of Selectmen.

C. Kowalski motioned to authorize J. Lavacchia to sign the paperwork with Maguire Equipment for the new packer in the amount of \$29,917. The motion was seconded by R. Davis and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

J. Lavacchia also asked for the approval of his recommendation on the concrete pad and sitework for the new packer location. He reported that there were three proposals received with Brantley Corporation at \$12,500.00, Ne-San at \$14,850 and Dependable Construction at \$16,487.50. He was recommending that they move forward with Ne-San at the price of \$14,850. He was asked by R. Davis why he recommends the middle proposal. J. Lavacchia responded that he has found that when the bids are close as they are with this one, the middle proposal tends to be more accurate as to the cost. For the record, the low bidder is related to a member of the committee.

C. Kowalski asked where the funds were coming from, ARPA or the budget. J. Lavacchia stated that he understood that only the packer was covered under the ARPA funds and the site work is under the budget. He also suggested that the committee request that the funds be encumbered whereas the work won't get done until early in 2024. They will need to use some of the 2024 funds as well to complete the job.

C. Kowalski motioned to accept Ne-San's proposal of \$14,850 to do the concrete pad site work at the transfer station. The motion was seconded by R. Davis. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Increase in User Fees at the Kent Farm Transfer Station

At the end of the last meeting, it was suggested that with the increases in the new contract and with the tipping fee and the roll offs at the transfer station increasing a lot, the fees be reviewed. J.

Lavacchia noted that the hauling fee in 2024 will be at \$300 per haul and by the time the contract ends in 2028 the cost per haul would be \$425.

The cost per ton is \$165 per ton in 2024 and ends at \$200 per ton in 2028. He suggested that the fees be reviewed annually and to be prepared to pass more of the cost to the user. E. Cabral suggested that the cost increase annually by the percentage of the increase. The committee discussed the various approaches they could use. It was suggested that the committee look at other transfer stations and see what their fees are and bring them to the next meeting.

Old Business

Painting of Trailer:

R. Davis reported that the painter is willing to honor the price he proposed, and will plan for the work in March of 2024, but won't commit to a specific date.

2024 Budget:

E. Cabral reported that she has met with the Budget Committee twice and is aware the C. Kowalski also met with some of the members of the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee is concerned with the amount of the increase in the budget due to the new contract. The Budget Committee put together their recommendation on the budget and suggested a reduction of \$40,000 to \$60,000. There were four total recommendations that were suggested and E. Cabral suggested that the committee explore the suggestions. Based on the current budget costs, the average household had a cost to recycle and dispose of trash at \$210. With the new contract there is a \$100 increase to \$310 per household. E. Cabral reported that the \$310 isn't out of line with other communities but they should look to see if there is any place, they could make some cost savings. T. Harrington noted that for the last five years the town has had a flat budget other than the annual tonnage/hauling rates increases. Some of these costs would have happened a few years ago, but with the flat costs of the last contract, the budget gets hit the first year of the new contract. The flat contract worked to the town's advantage during that contract, but now have to catch up on the next contract.

One of the suggestions of the Budget Committee was to reduce the recycling surcharge. E. Cabral reported that with this being the first year of the contract we don't know how it is going to go and suggested that they wait until 2025 budget to make any significant changes there whereas there will be a year under their belt. Previously the town has not had to pay for recycling and the committee needs to look into the education process to make sure the recyclables collected from Hampstead have a good return on the material.

The second suggestion was to look at the facility and processes to optimize the operations and that the committee should work with J. Lavacchia. E. Cabral responded to this by stating that they would be looking to work with J. Lavacchia throughout the year.

The third suggestion was to have an engineer review the current services and requirements to see if they are going in the right direction. The review should look at the future of curbside collection, future disposal options and if curbside co-mingling is the best option. It was also suggested that they join a group and make a district.

This brought up the idea of whether or not the current transfer station could be turned into a year-round transfer station full time. This is worth stating the conversation and see if a consultant would be able to work with them on this.

The fourth item was to provide information to the public.

An example of this currently is that there were issues with items going into the recycling container at the garage. With the help of Pinard, it was made into a cardboard only container with a slit in the front to put the cardboard in and two recycling totes next to it for all the other recyclables. It was noted that cardboard right now gets a good price for clean cardboard.

E. Cabral stated that the committee is an advisory one to the Selectmen and the need to be responsible to provide the best options both fiscally and for the residents.

They discussed at the various ways to reach the public such as social media, using the library's email notice. They understand that based on the way the industry is going, these costs are going to continue to go up and they need to look at the options, and if necessary, put them before the voters.

E. Cabral did note that working with a district has its own issues, as the committee has experienced while working with the area towns on the household hazardous waste collections. Hampstead has been looking at ways to reduce the HHW, but have not been able to the other communities on board. J. Lavacchia suggested a public information campaign. He has noticed that the committee is good at getting information out there and may need to show what bad plastics are and how they contribute to the costs. If people are careful on what they recycle, that would help. The down side of that, is if ours is good and it gets to a co-mingled facility, the others coming in may not be as clean. It was suggested to see if we can reach out to Casella marketing for some help and maybe see about having the recycling audited.

The committee will reach out to out towns (such as Litchfield) and see what they do with no curbside recycling and are a single stream model for recycling.

To find and engineer will require reaching out to the NRRA or Steve Keach of Keach-Nordstrom, and maybe Casella. J. Lavacchia said that they can look into exploring making the transfer station full time, but will need to spend money on a 3rd party consultant to look at all the options. There was a concern with the possibility of not getting enough in bulk of the high money commodities.

They committee can analyze where they are and where they can go. They are sure they will meet some resistance on any changes, but need to look into what is best overall.

Member Update

There were none.

Upcoming Events

Curbside Bulk pick up – December 16th

NEXT MEETING

January 9, 2024

Motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm was made by C. Kowalski and seconded by R. Davis.

The motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Harrington, Secretary