

Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2017

PRESENT; E. Cabral,(Chairman), C. Kowalski, C. Cipriano, R. Nugent, and P. Wentworth

Guests: P. Lindquist (Selectman Liaison), Archie St. Hilaire, (Casella)

MINUTES

The minutes from March 8, 2017 were approved by voice vote with correction of R. Nugent name.

New Business

Casella-Mr. St. Hilaire was invited in to speak with the committee to give the haulers perspective of what is going on in the industry. He thanked the committee for asking for the one year extension. E. Cabral stated that they were looking towns around and sees some of them with the totes, or automated system. She said the committee had questions on the cost of the totes, who supplied them and what the industry is seeing down the road.

Mr. St. Hilaire reported that the solid waste industry is putting pressure on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts because they are closing down their landfills and not looking into opening any new ones. In this process they are sending their trash out of state, including into New Hampshire. He explained that they may see the time that tariffs or restrictions may come forward. He also mentioned that the economy is doing well, which creates more trash going to the landfill. Long term the pricing is going up and towns will need to start limiting the amount of trash and push people into recycling more. The recycling industry is currently in transition. He reported that recycling used to be a lot of paper, almost 60% of what was recycled, but now it accounts for about 45% with more things available electronically. The value was in newspaper on the resell market. He said that 5 years ago the market for recycling was way up and recently it has cost to get rid of recycling. He explained that at the Charlestown Mass. recycling facility, the estimate the cost to recycle at \$75 per ton. He said that the rate does fluctuate from time to time but averages back to the \$75 per ton. China is the largest importer of recycled materials but in recent years that stopped bringing in the material. Now that they are short on paper, the market has picked up a little and the mills get busy. He stated that fiber spiked from November, 2016 to March, 2017, but so far in April the price is back down due to the fact that China has again shut off the material. He noted that virgin material is cheaper than recycled material. Glass is useless and currently being used for road bed or in the place of sand for covering landfills etc. The cost to move the glass is also significant so the materials tend to stay local. He went on to explain that people think that incinerating the waste is saving space but the ash from the incinerator actually takes up space. He said that 10 tons of trash into the incinerator would create 30% ash and there are also bypass products that would need to be disposed of. The facility in Charleston handles about 1000 tons of recycling per day and the facility works 16 hours a day. At night the facility maintenance is done. It is then taken to the port. There is a recycling facility in Lewiston Maine for overflow recycling that takes in about 200 ton per day. There is a recycling facility in Worcester/Auburn Mass area that can handle about 350 ton a day and it runs at about 15% capacity.

Mr. St. Hilaire asked what the current limits were in Hampstead and when told that the trash is limited to 2 barrels or 4 bags and that recycling is currently running about 28%. He said that most towns see recycling at about 15% to 20% with no restrictions. An automated system would increase the recycling rate to 30% to 35%. Whereas we are already at 28%, there would be an increase, but not as significant as going from no restrictions to automated. The pay as you throw system (PAYT) sees increases up to 45%-50% on recycling. He said that when people see it in the wallet, they start increasing the recycling.

He explained that there are three toters (barrels) generally used. There is a 35 gallon container, 64 gallon container and a 95 gallon container (there are also containers at 32/65/96).

He said that the automated system is a happy medium, it is neat and uniform, easier for single stream, stops animals from getting into trash, and holds a good amount. With the automated system they can pick up 150 more homes per day, which could move the contract to 3-day pick up. It was discussed as to who provides the carts, the hauler or the municipality. The town could purchase the carts through a municipal lease with one of the companies. He also said that on average the cost of the carts are at \$50 per cart. Haulers that provide the carts would prefer a ten year agreement and explained that the reason is there is a warranty on the carts for ten years. He then explained the process that there is a subcontractor that will handle the disbursements of the carts. They would get a list from assessing of all the properties that have curbside collection, drop the cart at each spot (normally where they would like to pick it up) and there is a serial number which is recorded for that location. He pointed out that most people when they purchase a barrel they would spend about \$30-\$35 per barrel so with the toter/cart the cost would be \$5 annually over a 10 year period. They last longer than 10 years, but the guarantee is good for 10 years. C. Kowalski asked if there was a specification that is used. Mr. St. Hilaire responded that they are all a little different. C. Kowalski asked about the ones that have the handle in the front. Mr. St. Hilaire explained that those are not used as much anymore. The handle is used for rear loading trucks. With the arm that extends, it wraps around the cart and lifts it so the handle is not needed. C. Kowalski asked about what could be in barrel. Mr. St. Hilaire stated that they have cameras on the trucks that watch as the cart is emptied. They have a clipboard to make notes if there are issues with the trash. He noted that they may not catch all but they do look for repeat offenders. The carts should be located about 3 feet apart (if using both) so that there is room to grab it. Snowbanks are not an issue. He said that the trucks will put them back in the same spot. He was asked if a parked car would be an issue. Mr. St. Hilaire responded that they may be able to reach the cart, if not they would get out of the truck to pick up and then leave a note. He pointed out that this process is used all over the country.

C. Cipriano asked what you do with items that don't fit into the cart, or are too tall and the cover won't close. Mr. St. Hilaire said that odd shaped items can fit it and that it is okay if the cover wasn't closed all the way. But he reminded them that bulk items are not trash items and don't belong in the carts. It was pointed out an item such as a mop would be the case in point. There was discussion about contamination of the recycling and Mr. St. Hilaire reported that about 6% of recycling taken to the Charlestown facility is contaminated.

They discussed the ability to get different size carts, especially in the areas that are predominately seniors. He suggested that you have a core size and then extras for special reasons. Selectman Lindquist noted that in her case, she would prefer a smaller cart. Mr. St. Hilaire stated that there are options. He has seen communities that allow duplex buildings to share a one 96 gallon cart and some with dumpsters for larger complexes.

R. Nugent asked if there were any mobile home parks that currently use the toter system. Mr. St. Hilaire said that in Danville there is one park, but they use the same size as the rest of the town. He stated that people shouldn't be allowed to choose. C. Kowalski asked if they would need to get new equipment for picking up new towns. Mr. St. Hilaire reported that the trucks cost about \$400,000 to purchase. He said that they would do about 1100-1200 stops per day so there a lot more maintenance on the trucks and mechanics on the arm. He explained that towns don't see a lot of cost reductions moving to automated. There is the savings of potentially cutting the days down from currently four to three days. There is a cost savings from the truck requiring two people on it to only requiring one. The cost of the truck and maintenance offset some of those savings. The other consideration is to cost is who pays for the carts. Based on about 3200 residences that get picked up in Town, and if they were to go to trash and recycling, the cost would be about \$320,000 for the carts and divided by a ten year contract (if through hauler) it would add \$32,000 to the annual contract. In discussion of the terms of the contract, the

minimum number of years would be 5 years if moving in the automated direction, but that 10 years is preferred.

Incoming changes- They are seeing the possibility of composting curbside. The cost right now is extremely high. The cost is a lot of work for a minimal material. There are many PILOT programs on curbside composting and available grant money. There is a farm in Massachusetts that allows haulers to bring in compost material. They do some times use a split body truck that collects compost on one side and recycling on the other side.

There is something called average commodity revenue (ACR) that is in the range of \$70 per ton. They know that it takes \$75 per ton to run the plant in Charlestown. What they do is share the revenue while the market is good but asks the towns to help pay the costs when the market is not doing so well on the secondary market. C. Cipriano asked if the recycling needed to be cleaned such as a pizza box or glasses. Mr. St. Hilaire said that Casella is known for providing a good product and a little oil would be okay when overall you are looking at 500 tons of recycling and a contamination of ½%. He said that he has this discussion at home that in order to clean out a jar you are wasting another resource, that of water. With there being no markets for the glass and say it is covered with peanut butter, it may be better in the trash. He explained that there are people at the recycling facilities whose job is to watch what is going through. 95% of material is clean and there is about 5%-6% bypass material, which is a good range.

C. Kowalski asked how the tipping fee would work if there is a 5 or 10 year contract. Mr. St. Hilaire said that they would base it on a flat fee year to year such as \$75 to \$77 to \$79 etc. The recycling would be more formula based on the scale of \$75 per ton cost to process. The committee asked Mr. St. Hilaire to let them know if there is anything that they should be doing to make the haulers job easier. The only long term change that may be coming down the road in recycling would be the reduction of glass collection. The committee asked if it was better to have the cart top open or closed. Mr. St. Hilaire stated that either was okay, but closed is better. He also mentioned that the cover color can separate recycling from trash. The logo can also be put on the carts. There was a question about the computer chip in the cart being read down the road, which could tell you how much trash was in the container. Mr. St. Hilaire noted that there is no scales on the truck and some that have been there to test have been off as much as 20-30 pounds. The committee thanked him for coming in and he provided them with a lot of information. He did state that a 6 month lead time on award to contractor would be a huge help especially where new equipment may need to be purchased.

Old Business

A reminder that applications for the NRRA conference are still available.

Motion to adjourn at 9:04 pm was made by C. Kowalski and seconded by E. Cabral and passed 5-0.

NEXT MEETING

May 10, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Continued discussion on RFP's

Future Agenda Item: Vendor from Cascade Cart Solutions

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Harrington,
Recording Secretary