

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

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

The meeting started at 7:00 pm.

Guests: Jim Lavacchia, Director of Public Works, Brian Goshen, Casella Waste Systems, and Tony Belanger, Pinard Waste Systems

Selectman Morse attended via phone.

MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes of Sept. 13, 2023

Minutes from Sept. 13, 2023, were read and approved with a motion by P. Wentworth and a second by C. Kowalski. The motion passed 5-0-0

New Business

Tony Belanger and Brian Goshen were present to discuss the purchase of Pinard Waste Systems by Casella Waste Systems. T. Belanger stated that there are to be no visible changes due to the purchase by Casella. The same drivers, the same trucks and the same phone number and staff will be handling the town. At some point down the road, it will transition to Casella, such as when a truck needs to be replaced and eventually for customer support. Casella has a calling center that will eventually take all calls. B. Goshen noted that Tony will still be the person to reach out to regarding the contract and other things, but we can access some of Casella's resources. E. Cabral noted that in the proposal from Casella during the RFP process, there were value added services and she asked if these would be available. B. Goshen responded that they would be available overtime. It will take some time to onboard the computer systems into the Pinard trucks, which when done, will open up other services. He noted that they could talk with us about what things we were looking for. J Lavacchia asked T. Belanger if there would be any changes to the yellow top program. The response was no but that there really weren't many people that use the program. Currently there are about 100 people using the yellow top (extra trash toter) and about 100 people that have the extra recycling toter (both provided by Pinard). He said that they keep \$5 of every toter, and the town gets the difference for the tipping. B. Goshen noted that the town provides a lot, especially where you look at that most communities do recycling every other week in a 95-gallon toter, and we do 65 gallons every week so every other week would be 130 gallons. There was a discussion about mattress recycling and options. B. Goshen reported that there is a program running in Concord NH and they will see how that works. Casella purchased a company in Connecticut that handles mattresses. Concord currently pays \$35 per mattress, and it is shipped to CT. It was noted that at the transfer station the mattresses are kept in their own roll off container.

There was discussion about stickers that get placed on toters that had issues and if there would be any changes to the program. B. Goshen stated that when the branding changes to Casella, there will be changes in the program. The driver can't always tell when there is an issue until after the toter is emptied, and then they will try to sticker the toter to give them a warning about the issue. T. Belanger stated that they try a two-sticker process with green and red stickers.

There was discussion about toters being open at the top whereas the town allows up to a couple of inches. C. Kowalski stated that he sees the same ones with trash and the covers up. T. Belanger said recycling top can be open without bags. They try to promote recycling and try to spend time on repeat offenders. If there are repeat offenders in an area, they may need to have dispatch come down and do an audit and work the resident on corrections. T. Belanger also suggested that if there are improvements the town wants to see, let him know and they can put them in the flyer. Overall, he noted that the town is very compliant, and the recycling is clean and good.

Chris Kowalski asked if there were any changes in what is collected in recycling. T. Belanger and B. Goshen explained that history of recycling and the triangles. They look at plastic that can be recycled as one that has a lid, cap, or cork on it. T. Belanger also noted that Pinard purchases Recycle NH and it goes to the RecycleMA.com website to explain what can be recycled. C. Kowalski asked about the bulk pick up program and if there was any thought about opening it up to more types or materials, such as white goods. After some discussion, the determination is that they would need to hold to what is in the contract. If we find that it is important to open the service up, then it would be a sidebar to the agreement. B. Goshen explained that there are some things that can't be co-mingled in a truck such as freon. C. Kowalski asked if there was any tracking of calls or issues at Pinard and T. Belanger reported that they keep a log, but that Hampstead had never asked for it, so it was never sent over. There was discussion about composting and what options there are. It was suggested that education is the best way to deal with it for now.

There was a question asked by C. Kowalski about styrofoam and being left in cardboard boxes that get recycled. He wanted to know if the cameras were able to catch those. The response was that it isn't noticed until it was in the truck. T. Belanger said it should be treated like plastic bags were, with education. C. Kowalski noted that there is a cost to MSW and a cost for Recycling and wondered if it was worth recycling. T. Belanger stated that was a good question but noted that certain parts of recycling will always be there to recycle. He also pointed out that under the new contract and the recycling fees, they may start high, but he is hopeful that the rates will go down for the second half of the year. The average commodity price this month is \$33.00. There was discussion about the formulas that were in the RFP's, one from Pinard and one from Casella. J. Lavacchia asked if it would be better to use the one from Casella. T. Belanger suggested the one from Casella may be a better formula to use, but it would require an addendum to the contract.

Chris Kowalski asked about the amount the packer would handle and if a roll off could handle the two packers. He explained that the committee is looking at a second packer and wanted to know what size would work best. It was suggested that 2-to-4-yard works and a breakaway model. It was stated that you don't want to pack them too much because it would create too much pressure.

Tina Harrington asked the question about assignment and assumption of contract document. In it stated that all assignor hereby assigns to Assignee all of Assignor's rights, titles, and interests in and obligations. The question was if this means that Casella assumes the contract as approved between the town and Pinard. The answer was yes, by assuming all assets and liabilities, that includes contracts that are out there. Overall, Pinard and Casella will be two different operating systems, but Casella owns both and runs one as Pinard. It was suggested to get the word out for when equipment changes branding down the road, but it isn't expected to happen right away.

Old Business

Painting of Trailer: R. Davis reported that she talked with the painter, and he will do the work in the spring. She was asked to see if he would commit to the time and, at the cost of the proposal. It was suggested that an email would be sufficient.

2024 Budget:

The proposed tipping fees are up in the new contract which has increased the budget significantly. There is also a proposed fuel surcharge which could be as much as \$17,400, so that will be added to the budget. The cost of the toters was paid off this year and there are no further lease payments. There is a small amount in the budget in case anything needs to be ordered. The household hazardous waste will remain at \$17k. The tipping fee is up for the bulk at the transfer station and there is the possibility of recycling fees to be charged back. Overall, the budget went from \$833k to \$1,192k which is about a \$350,000 increase.

The first budget meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11th. E. Cabral will not be available to attend the budget meeting, but C. Kowalski will present the budget. S. Morse stated that he reviewed the proposed budget and with the new contract, the increases are what they are.

It was noted that the transfer station costs are up and that it may be time to look at the fees. Currently we do not charge for items such as couches, yet there is a cost to dispose of it. S. Morse asked if the committee was considering the purchase of the second packer. C. Kowalski said a second packer is good insurance if the other breaks down. To add the new one there are additional costs such as the site maintenance, which would include a cement pad, hot top, and electricity. The packer itself was approved by the Selectmen and that ARPA funds would be used for it. J. Lavacchia agreed that there would be maintenance work to do to prep for the new packer and that to order a packer could be 10 to 12 weeks out. S. Morse suggested that the sitework be put into the 2024 budget with the explanation. E. Cabral asked S. Morse if he were looking for the ways the second packer would save costs. She noted that originally, they had hoped they would see cost savings, but after listening to B. Goshen and T. Belanger, she isn't sure that will happen in the way they expected. It was suggested that it be explained as a cost savings and/or update.

There was discussion about the feasibility of keeping the transfer station and E. Cabral noted that they need to provide the residents with alternatives. It was suggested to look at what would happen if the current packer broke, what would the implications of that be. What would plan B look like? The cost of the roll off is going from \$180 to \$300, that is a huge jump. So far in 2023 there has been about \$26k collected in revenue, which is half the cost of the running the transfer station. E Cabral told C. Kowalski that she could meet with him to go over the presentation.

New Business

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Saturday, October 21st the hazardous waste collection will be held in Atkinson from 9 am to noon. J. Lavacchia stated that Atkinson reached out to see if anyone from Hampstead was going. The committee asked that a DPW employee be allowed to represent Hampstead at the event.

Member Update

Reinhild Davis said she is interested in the bus tour sponsored by the NRRA. She asked that the committee reimburse her for the cost of attending. She agreed that she would give a report on the bus tour afterwards.

A motion was made by E. Cabral to reimburse R. Davis, the cost of the bus tour is \$65.00. The motion was seconded by P. Wentworth. The motion passed unanimously 4-0-1.

Upcoming Events

Transfer Station will be open November 11th

Curbside Bulk pick up – November 18th

Swap Shop closing date?

NEXT MEETING

November 8, 2023

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm was made by P. Wentworth and seconded by C. Cipriano

The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Harrington, Secretary