

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - Minutes - November 29, 2023

<u>Attending</u>	<u>Not in Attendance</u>
Wendy Cunningham	
Paul Denis	
Pat McDonough	
Paul Tabor	
Bryan Benson, Solid Waste and Recycling Director, Staff	

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from our 11/8/2023 meeting were approved.

DATES TO TOUR THE CASELLA FACILITY

We agreed the date of 1/11/2024 in the afternoon would work for the Committee members.

Bryan will connect with Casella to see if that date works for them.

TRASH HAULER RFP RESPONSES

We received two replies to the RFP; one from Casella who declined to bid as their current business model does not support our current methodology for curbside pick up (e.g. bags with tags). The other response was from Plummer who has pushed back their retirement date by one year and bid a rate that is 4.7% over their current rate. SWC discussed this was a reasonable request.

Given the new Plummer rate and an anticipated tonnage rate increase from Casella an approximate self-sustaining rate for trash tags for the next fiscal year would be \$3.75/bag.

We will recommend to the Select Board to renew with Plummer and increase the price of trash tags to the \$3.75/bag rate.

The new rate represent a 25% increase over the current subsidized rate of \$3.00. Given the magnitude of this increase we discussed establishing a way to help citizens in economically challenged situations. One thought was to leverage the current general assistance program such that households who qualify for that program might receive some trash tags. We also acknowledged some households that may not qualify for that program may still need help. Currently the Bowdoinham Food Pantry buys trash tags (at current rate of \$3.00/tag) and distributes to their cliental. We discussed setting aside a certain number of trash tags that the

Food Pantry could purchase at a discounted rate. In order to assess the impact of these two ideas we need the following information:

- How many households in Bowdoinham qualify for General Assistance. **Bryan will obtain this.**
- How many trash tickets does the Food Pantry currently purchase? **Wendy will ask for this information.**

PRESENTATION FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON 12/12/2023 - 7:00PM

We reviewed the draft presentation, outlined below are changes to be made:

- page 3 - current initiatives slide will include a bulled under item 2 noting we will be exploring what it might take to license the current Pond Rd. facility as a transfer station. At this point it appears all that is required would be filing with the State and creating a new entrance with a gate. Obtaining this license would allow the facility to accept bulky trash standardly (vs. 2/year), expand the hazardous waste they currently accept and even accept lawn and brush debris.
- page 5 -we will remove the reference to a specific company (Riverside). While the cost analysis was done using Riverside data one SWC member (Paul D.) had done some research and found other dumpster companies that service Bowdoinham are in the same price range thus reference is not necessary. Should we be asked we can elaborate.

Wendy will update and send.

FYI, Bryan reported that the EPA is working to ban organics from landfills, but this isn't for a number of years.

Wendy will be main presenter (keeping it brief) but other members can/will contribute if/as Select Board members ask questions.

ORDINANCE REVIEW

We discussed making sure we identify what we want in the revised ordinance, using our current ordinance and other towns' ordinances we've reviewed as reference. For example other towns mention abandoned cars - do we want to cover?

Paul T. will review Bowdoinham's current ordinance and develop a 'what is covered' outline for us for next meeting.

Paul D. suggested some items we are discussing may already be covered in Bowdoinham's Land Use Ordinance, e.g. not dumping on land. Bowdoinham has had experience with land dumps that have to be cleaned up, e.g. one dump where there was a rat population that migrated to neighboring land.

DRAFTING THE ORDINANCE

Wendy has pulled several reference documents on how to draft ordinances (she will share with the SWC). **Bryan was going to check with MMA to see if they had any resource for us.** In general the ordinance is used for both communication and establishing the law. Use of plain language is highly recommended. The reference materials also recommend keeping definitions to a minimum, etc.

We have a time constraint if the material is going to be available when needed. FYI the town meeting has been moved up to June 1, 2024 (from 6/12/24).

We may need to hold meetings more frequently, or have sub-committee(s) of 2 members, work on some of our initiatives to meet deadlines.