

**Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station
Solid Waste Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Ju 27, 2023 at 4:00 PM| Blue Hill Town Hall**

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:01 pm.

1. **Quorum and meeting attendance** – Scott Miller (BH), Chris Stark (S), Mary Allen (S), Ellen Best (BH), Thomas Welgoss (S) (online), Sean Dooley (BH) (online), Nicholas Nadeau (BH TA), Jon Emerson (TS Manager)
2. **Approve minutes of the 5/23 Committee Meeting** – Ellen moved to approve the minutes as written. Mary seconded. Approved: 6-0.
3. **Sending town & public comment** – none.

Business Items

1. **Monthly review of expenses/revenues** – The committee reviewed expenses and revenues. They would like a forecast of what it's going to cost to transport MSW to Juniper Ridge for the rest of the year. BH TA will provide. Scott noticed there are a few missing MRC invoices and asked the Treasurer to request them. BH TA mentioned that we are still waiting on an estimate for the cement wall repair. There was discussion about Sedgwick being behind and Brooklin overpaying last year. Scott questioned whether we were cash based or accrual-based accounting. BH TA reminded him that we are still awaiting the audit; an RHR Smith representative will be on site to assist with necessary changes. BH TA mentioned reserves will be utilized to cover any over expenditure.
2. **MRC Update/Discussion** – Scott thinks the Hampden facility will operate, starting with simple sorting and possibly moving to the higher tech areas later. There are going to be changes to the original 20-year agreement, possibly extending it out to 20 years from 2024 or 2025. The MRC owns our Municipal Waste. We have no say where it goes. Brewer, Bangor, Orono and Bar Harbor have a higher percent of the vote, if they say yes to extend the agreement, we must follow. Scott asked if the Committee members were receiving email notifications from the MRC. He said the best-case scenario is that the Hampden facility would be online in 2 years.

Tom doesn't believe the deal has closed for the buyers of the Hampden facility yet. The original closing date was June 2, but they needed \$30 million in financing. He wasn't sure if they had gotten the funding yet. He mentioned that for "fundamental matters" the MRC was required to give 20-30 days' notice.

The PERC Plant is currently being actioned off.

3. **Transfer Station Manager/Town Administrator Updates** – Jon said, "things are good." They are working on the design of signage for the transfer station. They would like signs for single-sort explanation, stickers required, and no credit cards accepted.

There was discussion about traffic flow and the possibility of getting a grant to have a traffic study done. The committee thought Eric Treworgy was going to investigate this. Mary mentioned Surry has a grant writer and she would find out how much he would charge to look and request a grant for this purpose.

Jon mentioned that painting the tar may be a quick and inexpensive solution. There was discussion that the DOT may come in to assist with traffic flow design. Chris will look into this and loop in the BH TA.

4. **Other Business** – Sedgwick had their town meeting and kudos were given to the transfer station for the cleanliness and organization. There was then discussion about an incident that happened Friday, June 23rd, with a Sedgwick resident. Jon said they had to direct people to the commercial section as the residential side wasn't working. She was angry and nearly ran over Kole and David in her frustration. She mentioned that there was glass all over the parking lot, but Jon said it was just the sheen on the tar.

There was discussion concerning having community members purchase special bags or stickers to pay for trash piece by piece. There was also discussion about a compost area. Due to the MRC contract, we are not allowed to compost. This might be an area to negotiate with if the MRC wants to extend.

Mary talked with Sarah Nickerson about mowing the land fill field. She was fine with mowing after 8/1 and that two mows were sufficient. Scott Miller will follow up with her as well.

Other Business

1. **Updates/Reminders**
 - a. **Next Solid Waste Committee Meeting – Tuesday, July 25th @ 4:00 PM**

Adjourn

Ellen moved to adjourn; Mary seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.