

**Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station
Solid Waste Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 4:00pm|Blue Hill Town Hall
Minutes**

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.

- 1. Quorum and meeting attendance** – S. Dooley (BH), C. Stark (S), T. Welgoss (S), M. Allen (S), E. Best (BH), J. Atwell (BH Town Administrator), D. Soper (Transfer Station Manager), M. Rockwell (Treasurer).
- 2. Approval of minutes for September 26, 2023** – Tabled until next meeting.

Business Items

- 1. Transfer Station Manager Update** – D. Soper distributed quotes for a new and a refurbished compactor to the Committee. They both have a 15–20-year useful life. He had Esposito Welding look at the existing compactor, and he agreed that it is not fixable again. D. Soper is leaning towards the refurbished compactor. He said there is an 8–10-week lead time for either compactor. The Committee asked how we get rid of the old one. D. Soper will ask. They also wanted to know if there would be any problem installing it in the winter. C. Stark moved to purchase the refurbished compactor. E. Best seconded. Vote: 5/0 Approved.

E. Best moved to authorize the quote of \$7,000 to do required maintenance at the Transfer Station. C. Stark seconded. Vote: 5/0 Approved.

D. Soper was asked at the previous meeting to find out what local transfer stations are charging for fees. Ellsworth charges \$170/ton or a minimum of \$15. We are at \$200/ton or a minimum of \$10. Stonington charges \$0.40 per pound. Deer Isle has no scale and is free. Castine also lacks a scale and charges \$25 per square, \$20 per couch. Penobscot and Orland (also without scales) charge by the piece. D. Soper recommends that we keep our fees the same. He would like new signage and has a list for the Committee.

D. Soper investigated a paint program as we currently send citizens to Ellsworth to dispose of paint. There is a paint care program and Clean Harbor picks it up.

Chemical disposal is limited in this area. We can take it to Ellsworth; you would pay yearly for a number of tickets. They didn't run the program last year. He believes it is run through the Hancock County Planning Commission.

The new employee, A. Wing, is working out great.

Scales were calibrated recently. This should be done twice per year.

2. **Review of Revenues/Expenses** – Wages are high, and the Committee discussed that they thought it was heavy in the beginning of the year. Plowing expense was high last winter and it is believed that sanding was a major contributor to this expense. The Town of Blue Hill has the equipment to plow now but will have to investigate the cost of a sander. Tires seem to be a loss for the Transfer Station. Water in the tires adds unnecessary weight. D. Soper asked about the possibility of building a small shelter (dug-out style) to store them in to avoid water getting in. The Committee asked him to get a quote. He also mentioned tipping a container (possibly the old compactor) on its side to store them in.
3. **Repair/Replacement of Commercial Compactor** – Previously discussed under the Transfer Station Manager Update.
4. **Draft 2022 Audit – In-person meeting with Auditor** – The auditor will be here on November 6th at 4:00pm. The Committee discussed a sub-committee to meet with the auditors to include S. Miller and T. Welgoss.
5. **2024 Budget Process** – S. Miller and T. Welgoss will review and do some preliminary analysis.
6. **MRC Update/Discussion** – It was asked if anyone on the Committee would like to be on the MRC Board. No one was interested.
7. **Other** – M. Allen asked if the meeting agenda and any other documents that may be distributed at the meetings to be sent via email. It's difficult to follow when you are online without the documents.

M. Allen would like the agenda to be accessible by all so that they can have some input.

D. Soper mentioned that a woman from Ellsworth would like to bring her recycling to the Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station as Ellsworth isn't recycling. The Committee said to charge her, but that it was acceptable.

Updates/Reminders

1. **Next Solid Waste Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, November 28 @4:00pm

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.