

**Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station  
Solid Waste Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 4:00 PM| Blue Hill Town Hall Minutes**

Called Meeting to order at 4:02 pm

1. **Quorum and meeting attendance** – Quorum established. Committee members present: Scott Miller (BH), Eric Treworgy (S) via video conference, Thomas Welgoss (S), Chris Stark (S), Ellen Best (BH), Sean Dooley (BH). Members of the public were present remotely. The BHSTS Manager, Jon Emerson, the Town Administrator and the Treasurer were also present.
2. **Approve BHSTS Committee Meeting Minutes of January 24<sup>th</sup>** – Eric moved to approve the Minutes from 1/24. Chris seconded. Approved 6-0.
3. **Public & Sending Town's Comments** – There were no comments from the public.

**Business Items**

1. **Monthly review of expenses/revenues** – N. Nadeau reviewed. The committee asked when the budget would be loaded in TRIO. N. Nadeau advised that we are waiting for the auditors. The committee would also like the 'percent of budget used' on the report.
2. **MRC Update (Scott)** – Scott reviewed invoices. We finished 2022 with solid waste at 4,200 tons. This is consistent with past years and the budget (2019 – 4,180 tons; 2020 – 4,260 tons; 2021 – 4,500 tons). Designated representatives were allowed to attend the MRC meeting. Scott spoke with Mike Carroll a day after for follow-up. The contract with Revere has lapsed, but they are still interested. The MRC asked for more money and Revere said no. They have since opened it up to other parties, with some interest. The MRC seems to be changing some of their standards and are a little less rigid in their demands.

They seem to have a three-pronged approach. The first is to find a buyer. Second, bring pressure on the state for assistance. Lastly, go back to member towns and back stop \$20 million. They expect to have a decision by April or May.

The Hampden plant costs between \$50,000 - \$100,00 per month to keep going. They have the abilities of sorting, a digester for perishables, and pulp operations. The sorting and digester are working, but the pulp operations is not currently. The Committee discussed opening the Hampden plant for the 2/3rds of operations and processing that way.

Scott spoke to the Bangor Daily and the Ellsworth American and stated that Blue Hill is not interested in back stopping. He said he thought the state should step up. We need to put pressure on the state.

There was discussion about doing some research to see if our agreement with the MRC would allow us to have an independent contract with PERC in Orrington. Kathleen in Stonington has a contract and maybe she can provide a cost basis for PERC.

There was discussion concerning our cardboard and glass recycling programs. Possibly have a member of the “Trash Action Group” volunteer to direct citizens to deposit trash correctly, using the recycling program. There was also talk of offering \$0.03 per pound for glass. This would allow us to keep the tonnage down and since we pay about \$0.04 per pound it would save us money.

A discussion was had about the flow being wrong and possibly having an engineer to come and offer some insight. The Committee would like to add “Best Transfer Station Designs to next month’s agenda.

3. **Transfer Station Manager/Town Administrator Updates** – Pete Waugh has terminated his employment. Hired new employee, David Soper, part time. Crystal will be leaving in the spring. They will need to hire one more temporary hire for the summer.

N. Nadeau is still reviewing the Employee Incentive Cardboard Payout Program and will review with the auditors.

Jon Emerson, the BHSTS manager, talked about equipment working properly. He’s been doing maintenance on the compactors, but they do need more work. There was mold found in the recycling building. Jon will repair it once they determine the source of the water. They believe there is a leak in the seam of the roof. He will clean up an area in the recycle building to create an office for his position.

There was discussion about putting in some shallow shelving for the “re-use room”. Also, about possible signage at the Turn Style concerning the “re-use room.” This would possibly raise more awareness of its existence.

There was a discussion about safety gear and equipment. A suggestion was made to check with Woodward & Curran for directions on the necessary requirements for the transfer station.

4. **Other Business** – None

### **Other Business**

1. **Updates/Reminders**
  - a. **Next Solid Waste Committee Meeting – Tuesday, March 28 @ 4:00 pm**

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.