

**Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station
Solid Waste Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 4:00 PM | Blue Hill Town Hall Minutes**

Called Meeting to order at 4:00 pm

1. **Quorum and meeting attendance** – Quorum established. Committee members present: Scott Miller (BH), Thomas Welgoss (S) (via online); Chris Stark (S), Mary Allen (S), Ellen Best (BH), Sean Dooley (BH) (via online), Jon Emerson (TS Manager), Nicholas Nadeau (BH Town Administrator), Michelle Rockwell (BH Treasurer), and Bill Cohen (member of public).
2. **Approve BHSTS Committee Meeting Minutes of March 28th** – C. Stark moved to accept the minutes as written, E. Best seconded. Approved: 3-0-1
3. **Public & Sending Town’s Comments.** There were no comments from the public.

Business Items

1. **Monthly review of expense/revenues** – N. Nadeau reviewed expenses and revenues with the committee. The plowing contract didn’t include sanding, causing the budget to be nearly spent. We will certainly have some additional plowing needed in the fall.

The bottom line is that 26% of the entire budget has been spent year-to-date. There will be some seasonal fluctuations.

Revenues are at 22% for the year. S. Miller would like us to pursue interest billing to towns that have short paid.

2. **MRC Update (Tom Welgoss)**
 - a. **New Hampden prospect**
 - b. **Review of MRC financials/subsidies**

T. Welgoss spoke of an April 13th meeting with the MRC concerning the new buyers of the Hampden facility. They have paid a \$350,000 nonrefundable deposit and the closing is scheduled for June 2nd, with a hopeful start up in 2024. They are working through their due diligence currently. The buyers consist of two people, and they are working with White Oak Financial Solutions. James Condella is the principal buyer group.

T. Welgoss spoke with Mike Carroll of the MRC. He said he seemed positive and upbeat. The prospective buyers have some innovative ideas, seem knowledgeable and are serious. They’ve secured \$20 million in capital. The MRC is optimistic.

Tipping fees are \$82/ton and the MRC is not subsidizing this. There is an open board meeting tomorrow, April 26th at 9:30. They will review the 1st quarter financials and update meeting attendees. It seems they are trying to be more transparent.

3. **Student Collaboration Update (GSA/C. Spark)** – C. Spark had nothing to report. He will follow up concerning student involvement to assist in reducing municipal waste.

4. **Transfer Station Manager/Town Administrator Updates** – Cardboard collection has increased; they have initiated charging \$6 per tire that is brought in. There was discussion among the committee members about charging more for larger tires.

E. Best moved to establish a \$12/tire fee for any with a wheel diameter of 19 inches or more and \$6 for the 19 inch and under. S. Miller seconded. Approved: 6-0.

N. Nadeau recommended extending an offer to an existing, part-time employee, the vacant full-time position.

E. Best moved to authorize N. Nadeau authority to hire a full-time employee. C. Stark seconded. Approved: 6-0.

5. **Other Business** – S. Miller provided a monthly analysis of the volume of MSW to the MRC. He also did a comparison of MRC MSW tonnage to DM&J's MSW tonnage. He believes there may be a missing DM&J invoice.

C. Stark found a "Municipal Calendar" that mentioned a Biennial Solid Waste and Recycling Municipal Reporting form that is due April 30th. M. Rockwell will investigate this.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 pm.