

**Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station
Solid Waste Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at 4:00 PM| Blue Hill Town Hall
Minutes**

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order.

Attendance/Quorum – S. Miller (Chair-BH), T. Welgoss (S), E. Best (BH), S. Dooley (BH), C. Stark (S), D. Soper (TS Manager), J. Atwell (Town Administrator – BH), E. Hutchins, and D. Riley.

Approval of Minutes & Sending Town/Public Comment

1. **Approval of minutes of the November meeting** - C. Stark made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes as written, seconded by S. Dooley. All approved.
2. **Sending town comment** – D. Riley asked about Eco Maine and the Town’s association. He was told that single sort recycling goes to Eco Maine.
3. **Public comment** – E. Hutchins wanted to clarify (from the last meeting) which holidays the Transfer Station will be closed. The Transfer Station will observe New Years Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Business

1. Transfer Station Manager update

- a. **Operations** – D. Soper reviewed repairs that need to be budgeted for 2024 to include a new roof, mold remediation, flooring, and the concrete retaining wall. There was discussion on being open 7 days a week. The logistics are difficult since DM&J is closed on the weekends and unable to exchange containers needed to accommodate more trash. Additionally, staffing is also an issue. This topic may be revisited if an operational plan that accommodates the additional day is identified.
- b. **Staffing/hiring status** – D. Soper would like to look into hiring high school students, part time, for the summer. There has been an ad in the paper for part-time and/or on-call help with no response. D. Soper did talk to Scott Blethen (a former employee), who would like to come back on a limited basis. **S. Miller made a motion to extend an offer of part-time employment to Scott Blethen, subject to J. Atwell and D. Soper’s review of Scott’s application and background check, seconded by E. Best. All approved.**

2. Review of YTD revenues/expenses

The committee reviewed the year-to-date revenues and expenses. There should be several remaining weeks of expenses for the year, and it looks like the budget will be close to break-even with the potential for a small loss.

3. First draft of 2024 Budget

2023 Forecast Results, 2024 Operating Assumptions, 2024 Expenditure Budget

S. Miller reviewed the anticipated year-end numbers for 2023. He showed a graph of MRC municipal solid waste data identifying the volume patterns for this year and previous years. Things are on track for a regular year. The average year is around 4,200 tons, a high year was in 2021 with 4,500 tons. The proposed budget estimate for 2024 is 4,300 tons. The assumption was that all MSW volume would be delivered to Juniper Ridge.

The larger budget increases involve tipping and transport fees, labor, and repairs. The committee agreed that a roof replacement, mold remediation, a new lawn mower, and the window replacement on the Bobcat should all be included in the 2024 budget. D. Soper is going to get a quote for the concrete repair. It has not yet been decided if this expense will be included for 2024 or 2025.

There was a lot of discussion on wages, and employee recruitment. The proposed budgeted wages considered additional part time employees, so the committee suggested \$185,000 for 2024, but that will be discussed further at the next meeting. It may have to be increased again.

4. Any other business

Updates/Reminders

1. Next Solid Waste Committee meeting—Tuesday, January 23 @ 4:00pm

Adjourn

E. Best made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A)—Personnel Matter, seconded by S. Dooley. All approved.

No action was taken.

E. Best made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by S. Dooley. All approved.