

Solid Waste Removal and Recycle Committee Meeting Minutes – July 18, 2018

Members present: Ron Morales, Dan Guilmette, Rob Caron & Bud Staples

Attendees: Pete Lachapelle, Waste Management (WM)

Meeting called to order @ 5:00 PM by Chair Ron Morales

Ron started the meeting by reporting that several home owners in town had reported that their recycle bins were not recently emptied by WM. Pete reviewed changes in global recycling markets that negatively impact the selling of recycled waste and as a result WM is inspecting more bins and not emptying recycle bins that have either hazardous waste or normal trash items. Changes in the markets include, material bans, a lower rate of contamination at 0.5% as well as reduced values on mixed paper and no present market for #3, 4, 6 and 7 plastics. Markets remain for corrugated, newspaper, tin, aluminum and #1, 2, & 5 plastics.

WM's procedure for offenders is to take the bin the first time and tag it so the home owner is aware that they need to eliminate non recyclables. If a second offense, WM will only take the recyclables from the container and leave the non-recyclables with another tag. If a third offense, the bin is not emptied and is left behind.

Pete continued to report that due to these spot inspections, the time to pick up and empty recycling bins has increased dramatically. This and lower commodity values have increased the cost of recycling. The higher costs are being passed on to East Kingston through a notification letter sent to the Board of Selectmen that will raise the processing fee to \$105/ton effective October 1, 2018. This increased fee for Unusual Changes or Costs is addressed within the Town's Agreement with Waste Management. Ron motioned to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to approve WM's Amendment. Rob seconded the motion and All were in favor.

Our Committee will continue monitoring the situation for the next three months to consider if changes should be made in our recycling and trash disposal recommendations as this change could cost the Town and taxpayers considerably more in the long run. We'll also revisit this in six months with recommended changes on how to proceed.

Ron suggested we meet with the Selectmen to review this situation and to recommend acceptance of WM's change to our contract. He took this as an Action Item and will let our team know if and when this meeting will take place.

Other discussions took place regarding the Spring Bulky pick up that took three days to complete. This normally takes less than a day and a half to complete. Pete reported there was considerable leakage from the surrounding areas where items were added from neighboring town friends. Also items not considered to be bulky in nature were picked up during this last round. Acceptable bulky items are listed in the 2018 - 2019 Waste Management Collection Services Calendar that was mailed to every resident in April. The Committee discussed adding a fee in 2019 for bulky items, similar to what was implemented for white goods and e-Waste pick up. This will be further discussed after the Bulky pick up scheduled for Sept. 24, 2018.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on October 17th at 5:00 PM at the Pound School. Our meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

William (Bud) Staples, Recording Secretary