

## Solid Waste Removal and Recycle Committee Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2019

Members present: Ron Morales, Amy MacDonald and Bud Staples

Attendees: Pete Lachapelle, Waste Management (WM)

Meeting called to order @ 4:00 PM by Chair Ron Morales

The meeting started with a review of June data which showed a normal amount of recycled material vs. our total solid waste and recycling tonnage. The Spring bulk pickup totaled 18.4 tons vs. 52.1 tons in the Spring of 2018. The decrease was attributed to the sticker program that was implemented that prevented much leakage from neighboring towns. This reduction of 65% from one year to the next reduced the town's overall tonnage cost and was offset by \$930 in collected sticker fees.

Pete Lachapelle (WM) updated the Committee on the recycle market and what other towns are doing. He also gave us a handout that updates solid waste and recycling trends. He mentioned how solid waste disposal capacity is shrinking as several landfill closures have taken place nearby and new capacity has been difficult to permit. On the recycling side, commodity quality requirements have become more restrictive and processing costs have increased significantly. As a result both solid waste and recycling costs are rising and being passed on to communities such as ours. Waste reduction is the new mantra with calls for reduction in excess packaging, reusable vs. disposable containers, and to repurpose vs. disposal. Because it's the right thing to do, Waste Management preaches "Recycle Often. Recycle Right."

We reviewed the new contract for the 5 year period beginning in 2020 that WM proposed for East Kingston and asked questions regarding increases in various costs. There were two that triggered discussion, one having to do with the increase in number of carts being picked up and the 10% increase in the cart rate vs. what was listed in Option Year 6 of the current contract. We asked Pete to look into these figures and to get back to us. The other discussion had to do with the "Attachment C" to the new contract which is a single stream recycling specification that includes what can and cannot be recycled and how a newly instated "Composition Audit" would affect our recycled tonnage pricing. This new audit includes commodity values, penalties for excess contamination and residual fees for items that should have been placed in solid waste. Pete agreed to send us a calculation of prior months' recycling and how this would be calculated so as to be able to present reasonable estimates to the Board of Selectmen to include in the Town's 2020 Budget.

It was determined that we needed to meet as a Committee monthly, for the time being, in order to collect more answers from Waste Management regarding the new contract and to be able to make an informed recommendation to the BOS regarding the proposed contract. Our next meeting has been scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 PM. An additional meeting on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM has also been scheduled. All meetings are held at Pound School.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

William (Bud) Staples

Recording Secretary