

Solid Waste Removal and Recycle Committee Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2022

Members present: Ron Morales, Dan Guilmette and Bud Staples

Meeting called to order @ 3:07 PM by Chair Ron Morales

Non-Public

Chair Morales Motioned to go into non-public session at 3:08 PM citing RSA 91-A: 3. Bud Staples Seconded. Chair Morales polled the Committee with Morales Yes, Guilmette Yes and Staples Yes.

Chair Morales Motioned to exit the non-public session at 3:40 PM. Bud Staples Seconded. The Motion carried 3 – 0.

Chair Morales Motioned to seal the non-public minutes. Dan Guilmette Seconded.

The Committee was polled and it was determined divulging this information from a vendor was not appropriate until negotiated and if accepted by the Committee and Board of Selectmen, at which time this would become public information.

Public

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

Attendees: Pete Lachapelle (WM)

Chairman Ron called the meeting to order at 4:00PM with all members present.

First order of discussion was brought up by Ron regarding WM's written request to the Town for a price increase to cart pickup fees and tonnage rates. Ron mentioned that any fuel fee adjustments were already part of the current contract and wanted to better understand the request, citing that the Town has similar issues with price increases and overall inflation with no way to collect additional funds this fiscal year from residents. Pete (WM) discussed that their labor costs have nearly doubled since 2020, maintenance, tire and lubricant costs had increased 29%, 44%, and 50% respectively, and steel costs were up nearly 200%. He also pointed out the mismatch in jobs where people changing jobs don't fit the needs of WM when it comes to hiring drivers, a key problem at this time. Pete clarified that the increase proposed was only for the remainder of this calendar year and the remaining two years pricing within our contract (2023 & 2024) were not affected.

Bud questioned if the recycle cart count was correct at 935 units and Pete responded that if anything it was higher than what was being billed. Ron asked if there was a way to audit the pickup counts to confirm pricing. Pete said there were no counters on the trucks, and that this was not feasible for the drivers to conduct. Ron said we need to find a way to do this.

Further discussion ensued with Ron citing that recycle tonnage rates for 2022 were budgeted at \$75/ton and that credits for recycled materials were going in the right direction. He also pointed out that our budget for MSW and recycled waste was on target and that we continue to average 31.5% of our tonnage as recycled waste. Based on overall inflation rates since 2010, Ron mentioned that WM rates were lower than accumulated inflation rates and that maybe meeting somewhere in the middle with the rate increase request would be reasonable to both parties.

Dan Motioned to recommend to WM and the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to accept a 2.5% increase in cart pickup fees and a 3% increase in tonnage rates for the last 6 months of 2022. Ron Seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Pete said he would take this to WM management for review and Ron said he would take it to the BOS.

Our next topic discussed was Bulk waste sticker sales for the upcoming May 16th pickup. The overall consensus was that the responsibility for providing and selling tickets to residents was within the Town Offices and not with the Committee. When sticker sales first started, the Town Clerk's office handled all sticker sales for Bulk and White/eWaste pickups. The Committee volunteered to assist in selling stickers on a few Saturdays when Town offices were either closed or hours were restricted due to COVID-19. Since Town office hours are back to normal, the committee unanimously agreed that the procedure should return to what was originally set up, providing residents the opportunity to buy stickers during Town office hours. Bud offered to let the Town Clerk's office know of our discussion since they had asked him earlier in the week if the Committee would be involved again with sticker sales on Saturday prior to the Bulk pickup.

Pete (WM) said the new 2022-2023 Collection Services brochure for the Town was ready to go to print and that any last minute changes needed to be finalized quickly. Ron wanted to confirm correct Town Office hours and agreed that these needed to go to print and get mailed ASAP.

Pete had offered a field trip at the WM facilities for the Committee members and possible dates were discussed. Pete will finalize and get back to the members.

Pete asked for a date to start collection of the Wasson Field dumpster. Ron confirmed to start it on the next collection pass.

Ron motioned to adjourn and Bud seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William (Bud) Staples, Recording Secretary