

Solid Waste Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2020

Board members present: Phil Griffin, Adam VonDette, Charlotte Hebert and Audrey Bethel

Also present: Laura Buono, Luke Levesque, and Kay Hartnett (Deering resident)

We do introductions for newest participant, Kay, and Luke presents the latest snapshot of life at the transfer station; record tonnage of construction & Demolition (C&D) for September and October , with no sign of slowing down.

Mixed solid waste (MSW) tonnage has also been up- they have been filling a trailer a day when it used to take a day and a ½.

The need for a new bailer is evident, and Luke says he did meet with the representative that Adam connected him to who showed him some very nice bailer options (large capacity and fully automatic) but they are in the \$60K range. We discuss how it will save \$ in the long run though , to have so much less human power needed to manage the cardboard (which is also increasing in volume still).

We talk about looking to buy bailer by the spring 2021. Using capital reserve fund 4? Or some of the general fund surplus, or we could do a warrant article if need be.

Laura says it will be hard to know going into next fiscal year all the impact of the Covid situation—but generally speaking, she says “it is going to be costing us to do things we used to get the state to pay for”. E.g. the state has lost of on so much \$ with restaurants and lodging operating at less capacity.

With \$ being discussed, Luke brings up the way Brush is currently costing the town more & more (last time chipper cost \$9,500.)

Hillsboro Transfer Station was never designed to take commercial brush.

Local landscaping businesses bring in truck loads that they are making money off of, and dumping for free.

It is hard to just charge commercial vehicles though, because sometimes these trucks are unmarked- and conversely, sometimes people use their work trucks to dump their own house debris...

Ideas are tossed around: Maybe only have brush brought in on Wednesdays, (noon-8 pm) or only have one day of the week for commercial waste to be brought in?

If commercial brush can't come in to Hillsboro on other days of the week there are other options for them like Cousineau Forest Products in Henniker, but they charge \$.

Luke wants to know more about what other towns have for their Brush fee structure.

Laura sends out an email to her network of town administrators to ask.

We divvy up towns to call and ask about their brush program:

Phil- Weare & Francestown

Adam- Hopkinton & Concord

Charlotte- Antrim, Washington, Warner

Audrey – Lebanon & New London

Kay- Peterborough

Audrey says she will contact *America the Beautiful* about getting new signs to highlight money saved by divert trash from MSW.

We discuss the staffing changes, still 3 full time positions, with Patrick out on leave, Angie has been hired full-time and Larry is back now and they still have some "on call" .

Other note: Swap Shop is currently florescent light bulb tube storage – hard to know if/ when we will swap shop again.

Next meeting : Thursday, December 3rd, at 8 am at the Hillsboro Town Offices