

**Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee
Fifteenth Meeting: Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 7:00 PM
At The Grange**

Approved Meeting Minutes

Present: Bill Christiano, Michael C. French, Lia Houk, John V. Kjellman, Donna MacMillan, Linda Patterson, and Rod Pimentel.

Absent: Don Blanchard, Amanda Gilman (vacation)

- 1) Chairman John Kjellman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Chairman's introduction:
 - a. PAYT failed in several towns, including Hopkinton by 2-3 votes, and in Pembroke.
 - b. Cordell Johnston made an amendment at town meeting to roll back the executive budget to last year's amount, and it carried. Adjusting to that cutback means our budget is going to be reduced from \$3K to \$1.5K.
 - c. Ron Lavallee tried to reduce Transfer Station budget at town meeting, citing too much overtime, but his amendment failed. But, warrant proposed for T/S at the meeting was down about \$9k from "final" budget approved by selectmen. Approved was \$622K.
 - d. John has been up to Lebanon Landfill and Recycling Center, over to NRRA offices, reviewing T/S budgets in ten years' of town reports, and visiting with Russ Roy. He will amplify later in the meeting.
 - e. John acknowledged Lia's long tenure as chairperson of the HRC, which he discovered going through old annual reports. He pointed out that the town's selectmen don't seem to appreciate just how much the HRC has done over the years.
 - f. Handouts: agenda, draft minutes 2/26 meeting, NRRA brochure, Lebanon SWF brochure, letter to Monitor re Hopkinton PAYT, Hazardous Waste Disposal information from Bill, Henniker T/S & R/C chart from John.
- 2) John mentioned the NRRA Conference, which is scheduled for 6/8-6/9/2009 in Manchester. He said it was not likely that the town would reimburse conference fees for more than one or two committee members. John said he would research the \$55/day fee option, vice full fee of \$95/day. He asked committee members to let him know in April if they planned to attend the conference.
- 3) John gave a review of his visit to the Lebanon Landfill to attend the NRRA's monthly marketing meeting. He said that the NRAA is going to have every other meeting "off site" for a few months, to see if that will appeal to people who have

to travel a long distance to get to Epsom. He said that Lebanon operates a landfill for about 24 Upper Valley communities, and charges about \$60/ton for solid waste disposal. Individuals are on a Pay As You Throw basis, but are charged on the basis of weight, not by bags. Lebanon has a scale for weighing trash. People buy coupons which get punched for each 30 pounds that is disposed. Data from the attended scales is transmitted to City Hall each evening, electronically. Lebanon also has a recycling building, with large bins for the different types of materials, which are emptied by a small loader and dumped into a horizontal baler. Typically it is a one-person operation.

John said he got some information about small scales, designed for weighing cattle, that he thought might be useful for weighing small quantities of trash, as an alternative to a pay per bag system. These scales are being used in Lee.

- 4) John said he visited NRAA to review Henniker's recycling data, and obtained data for 2004 through 2008, which he is using to develop a historical analysis.
- 5) John said he talked with Jim Presher of the Concord COOP, as he was requested to do at the last meeting. He got the standard line from Jim Presher, planning for the new single stream recycling facility in Penacook is proceeding. A public hearing is scheduled in Concord for April 15th. RFPs for the equipment have gone out and some of the responses are back. John added that he did receive information that indicated that if Henniker signs on to use the new facility, it is committed either "forever," (according to Bob Pennock and Jim Presher) or fifteen years (according to Bonnie at NRAA). John did say that Jim Presher might be OK with a S/S system for Henniker businesses, and for us to continue to operate the T/S as we do now for individuals.

John said that following a thought that Mike had expressed at earlier meetings, he thought that the committee needs to bring something to the selectmen on this issue. Rod asked if the COOP had made a pitch directly to the selectmen, and John said he didn't believe so, that the contract proposal was apparently in Bob Pennock's hands. Rod thought that to be strange. Mike asked a similar question, do we know if the COOP has sent a proposal directly to the selectmen? John's answer was that after talking with Peter Flynn, he didn't believe so. Mike said he feels we need to find out what the selectmen would like from us on this issue. John said he would investigate this issue further before the next meeting.

- 6) John said he talked to Mike McCray of Corcoran, and asked about the status of Corcoran's proposed facility in Manchester. Mike said Corcoran was waiting for permit approval from NH DES. Earlier John had been given to understand that the approval was expected in early March. DES did confirm that the permit approval was pending and that no problem was expected. Apparently a set-back waiver is required.
- 7) John began a discussion of the data he has collected and analyzed on Transfer Station revenues and expenses, going back ten years, and referred to the graph that he had prepared and handed out showing some of that data. He said one striking observation was the fact that overhead was half the cost of operating the transfer station, and if you took the total cost of operating the transfer station,

including all tipping fees, and divide that by the amount of trash that flows through the transfer station, about 1/3 of the total, that the total costs are around \$329/ton. Tipping fees are minor compared to that. Looked at another way, overhead costs are about \$104/ton. Two-thirds of everything that goes to the incinerator goes direct.

Rod pointed out that in earlier years, revenue from aluminum cans went to the Lions Club, which might have impacted the number, but John pointed out that even today we get more revenue from paper and metals than we do aluminum, due in part to fewer drinks coming out in aluminum cans.

Rod pointed that one cost not factored into John's analysis is the cost townspeople pay to have their trash taken by "the haulers" to Penacook, and that this cost should be figured in. Rod further suggested it would be good to try and get the total gross revenue that the haulers are charging their Henniker customers.

Lia pointed out that another flaw in the data is that we can't determine how much of the overhead costs is due solely to recycling, that is what does it cost us in overhead to generate the recycling revenue? There was agreement on that point from Mike, Rod and Linda.

John observed that compared to other recycling facilities, that Henniker's facility is labor intensive. Lia said this is one of the arguments for single stream; lower labor costs.

Rod said that with curbside pickup we could eliminate the transfer station. Mike endorsed that thought, adding that it would be combined with single stream recycling. Linda added that's what Goffstown is doing.

John pointed out that it also takes extra labor for Henniker residents to separate recyclable materials, and that time is worth something. Professionals often bill \$50 to \$100 per hour for their time, for example. Mike pointed that that this is one of the reasons we don't get more recyclable materials. Linda pointed out that some people don't look at it that way, that they enjoy the process and visit to the transfer station.

- 8) Bill gave a review of his updated report on hazardous waste disposal. He said that the brochure that Bob puts out ahead of hazardous waste collection day is very good, as it tells people what to bring, and not to bring. Bill thought that perhaps hazardous waste should be collected more than one day a year. He said Bob didn't think it is necessary.

Bill went to Hillsborough which collects for Deering and Windsor. Windsor is unique in that it takes in large truck tires. Bill asked if they had a full-time hazardous waste person, the answer was no, it would not be cost effective. Hillsborough is very vigilant about what comes in, and has the right to inspect trash to ensure that it doesn't contain any hazardous wastes. Linda asked if Bob does this in Henniker, and the answer was no. Hillsborough uses Clean Harbors, once a year for half a day.

Weare does the same thing as well. They have a \$6,000/day budget, which is usually OK. They use Clean Harbors as well, and said they have no need for a full-time person.

Bill pointed out that Henniker allows businesses to participate in hazardous waste collection day, only if there is enough capacity at the end of the day, and the business pays for the cost of disposal.

Bill visited with Patrick Winn at Concord, which also does HW disposal one day a year. They don't have a full-time person, either. They are thinking about going to a once a quarter schedule. Uniwaste Services is Concord's vendor. They believe it won't cost much more to do four days a year.

Lia mentioned that she hears people in Henniker complain that if they miss the one scheduled day, they have to retain their HW another whole year or find some other way to dispose of it.

Bill said when he worked in Concord, he got a lot of calls about trash dumped in the woods, so it is a problem.

Bill heard that Keene does have a full-time hazardous waste person, and will call Keene to ask about how that works.

Bill pointed out that Henniker gets some funding from the State for hazardous waste disposal. It was \$2,900 last year.

- 9) John suggested that we might talk with Dockham in Hopkinton about curbside trash pickup, as it is collecting a lot of the trash in Hopkinton.
- 10) John mentioned to Lia that we need the single stream analysis, and that starting with Liz Bedard's analysis is a good place to start.
- 11) Linda gave a brief overview of her and Donna's visit to Weare and Goffstown.
- 12) There was a general discussion about how Henniker compares with other towns, and Lia pointed out that scales would be a big benefit in Henniker
- 13) John referred to the committee's task of writing a report to the town, and said it was not clear exactly how we should approach that task. On one hand we've been asked to develop options, on the other hand if we think change is needed, just producing a report is not likely to produce change, given the political inertia in the town on the subject of recycling. Lia suggested that we would want to do something to generate community involvement, which could lead to political support for change. Rod said that if we do a report that offers an option that would save money, then the selectmen will support it unless it is politically dangerous. If our report is ambiguous, and it might be, then they are not likely to do anything. Bill asked if we should give the selectmen a recommendation. The answer is that we were asked not to do that, but Rod thought we could do it anyway. Lia and Rod said we would have to make a presentation to the selectmen, perhaps even a Power Point presentation. Lia pointed out that if we

recommend something like scales, we're going to have to cost it out over several years to show how it could save money, and that is where it would be helpful if we knew exactly how much we collect in C&D fees.

It was suggested we should have a very short report, with numbers, and that we put the detailed information in some type of backup report. We don't have to make recommendations, let the numbers speak for themselves. Show the costs and benefits of each option.

14) It was pointed out that we had not reviewed the minutes of the prior meeting. John said that in recognition of the time we would let that slip until the next meeting.

15) **Rod moved to adjourn the meeting, Linda seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.**

Submitted 4/07/2009
John Kjellman, Chairman
Approved 4/09/2009