



TOWN OF READFIELD – Town Manager

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To: Solid Waste and Recycling Committee
From: Eric Dyer, Town Manager
Date: January 12, 2022
Subject: Second Quarter Operational and Financial Update

The following points summarize Transfer Station operations during the period from October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Operations:

Facility and Equipment

- We had a major equipment failure just before Christmas due to Troiano Waste Management hitting the compactor unit with the octagon can when unloading. The unit was sheared off its anchor bolts and effectively jackknifed. Atlantic Recycling Equipment was called and performed the repairs quickly and at the expense of Troiano. Many thanks to Karen for handling this issue and getting it resolved quickly.
- Two doors on the storage and restroom building were replaced by Ralph Eno with staff assistance.
- We are investigating the fabrication and installation of metal gates for the Demo cans to ensure safety compliance. We are also looking into contracted concrete repair.
- Most other facility improvements were put on hold due to staffing issues.
- We have a new PC awaiting installation at the compactor building, the laptop is still in use.

Personnel

- We continue to have staffing issues, exacerbated by the lack of a second maintenance person throughout the quarter. A Maintenance hire was made in late December that should help with this. We are in the process of hiring a part-time backup staff person to address sick and vacation usage, and hopefully summer Sunday hours.

Programming and Policy

- We transitioned from the large “dump body” food waste container to a small mobile one during the quarter. This was necessary due to the weight of the larger container and challenges with moving it safely.
- The Swap Shop remains closed. COVID prevalence and policy will dictate reopening.
- The new locations of the wood pile, metal, and demo bins seem to be having the desired effect with minimal service disruption for residents.
- The new electronic payment system was installed early in Q2 and has been in testing mode. It is not live due to bugs identified by staff that have not yet been resolved. It is a promising system.

Tipping and Hauling

- Troiano has been increasingly challenging to work with as a hauler, with unreliable pick-up times and communication challenges.
- We need to issue a tipping and hauling RFP in Q3 in anticipation of the end of our existing contracts on June 30, 2022.

- Local Commercial Hauler Permit renewals were issued in Q2 (and recently approved by the Select Board). We did not charge these fees last year.

Finances:

Operating Revenues

- Recycling prices have rebounded and we are again getting paid for recyclable materials rather than paying tipping fees.
- Revenues are on track for the year generally. Payments by partner towns are current and Fee collection as in line with expectations.
- Metal is well above estimates at over 100% of budget midway through the year.

Operating Expenses

- Expenses for the first two quarters are just under the 50% mark, which is a positive indicator considering where we are with volumes.
- Wages were increased for all full-time hourly Readfield employees during the third quarter in response to staffing issues and the availability of ARPA funds to support front-line staff. Transfer Station staff were included in the \$2/hr. increase. This change will become more prominent in future quarters.
- The building O & M lines are not being heavily used, but this is expected to change during the second half of the year with full Maintenance staffing in place.
- Backhoe expenses are less than budgeted but not necessarily less than expected given the newness of the equipment.