



TOWN OF READFIELD – Town Manager

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To: Solid Waste and Recycling Committee
From: Eric Dyer, Town Manager
Date: April 10, 2024
Subject: Third Quarter Operational and Financial Update

The following points summarize Transfer Station operations during the period from January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024.

Operations:

The information below is provided as a brief summary. More detail will be provided by Transfer Station Manager Karen Peterson.

Facility and Equipment

- The MSW compactor had a weather related failure due to the use of high-viscosity hydraulic fluid in an unheated system. The most cost effective fix was to install a heating element.
- The backhoe had a minor hydraulic leak that was repaired.
- The backhoe had a door panel broken due to a stray piece of brush being lodged in an unusual way.
- We began requesting quotes for work on the gravel brush pad during March.

Personnel

- Staffing was relatively stable during the quarter.
- Hours were limited for our part-time employee in order to ensure budget limits would be met for the year based on projections through June.

Programming and Policy

- The new Transfer Station stickers were distributed during the quarter. Most residents were ok with the change (the last being about four years ago) but some were angry and complained about the sticker being on their windshield.
- The Town of Readfield is updating our Waste Disposal and Recycling Ordinance, which is directly related to Transfer Station operations. The revised ordinance will be voted on at Town Meeting on June 11th.
- The Transfer Station brochure was updated to include new pricing (as of January 1) and material information.

Tipping and Hauling

- No change in service, light winter weather minimized any potential issues on-site.

Finances:

Transfer Station revenues and expenses are on target for the quarter. Both should be around 75%. Items of note are discussed in more detail below:

Operating Revenues

- Total Revenues stand at 70.85% of budget, but much of this is from member town contributions which are dependent on facility expenses.
- We have received recycling revenue of \$1,897.12 from ecomaine YTD.
- Payments by partner towns are current.
- Fee collections are just under budget at 73.64%.

Operating Expenses

- Operating Expenses stand at 70.82% of the budget, slightly less than anticipated.
- Office supplies are over-expended due to the sticker purchase, which cost about \$1,800.
- Wages continue to slightly outpace the budget at 77.54%.
- Electricity is well over budget at 127.77% and is expected to be an issue going forward unless we can control seasonal usage.
- Tipping and hauling costs are all running close to budget, and under budget in total at 68.82%.
- Equipment O & M picked up in Q3 but is still well within budget.
- Building and grounds O & M has been lightly utilized at 12.02% but is expected to be fully expended in Q4.

Fiscal Year 25 Budget

- No significant change from the budget reported in Q2.
- Cost increases for labor, tipping, and hauling are the major drivers on the expense side of the budget. Revenues are essentially flat however, resulting in a 7.3% projected net increase to the operating budget. This net increase is distributed differentially to each community based on relative State property valuation.