

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (SWRC) Minutes
Wednesday, January 24, 2024
5:30 to 6:30 PM at the Readfield Town Office and via Zoom

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Present: Committee members: Amy Black, Eric Dyer, Karen Peterson, Kathryn Mills Woodsum, Mike Carlson

Public: No others present

Accept Minutes from October 11, 2023

- Motion by: Amy Black; Second by: Mike Carlson **Vote: Unanimous**

Oral and Written Communications

Readfield Transfer Station Manager Report: Karen and Eric gave the following report:

General Operations

- Facilities & Equipment – No major facility issues.
- The backhoe blew the main hydraulic hose and was repaired.
- The light winter makes maintenance easier.

Personnel

- The transfer station manager was out for a planned absence.
- There was an unplanned absence from the primary attendant during the quarter; gaps were covered by part-time and maintenance staff.
- Staffing levels remain below where they need to be for reliable coverage given liability for vacation and sick time.

Programming and Policy

- The transfer station was fortunate to get power back early from the pre-holiday storm; only down one day. During that day, brush was accepted, but no other equipment was able to operate.
- New transfer stickers, differentiated by color and town seal, were ordered and a plan is being developed to distribute. Stickers will be delivered to town offices to get them out as quickly as possible. Stickers will also be available at the transfer station. Readfield will be using their stickers for access to both the transfer station and town beach.

Tipping and Hauling

- Notice has been received of cost increases from Waste Management and it is expected that other vendors may follow.
- Mainstream Solid Waste tonnage per container has declined since the hydraulic “overdrive” element was removed. Satisfactory compaction is still available.
- There is an in-state company that will take care of compactors. They are coming back next week to work on the MSW heater. Prices are reasonable.

Quarterly financial review: October – December 2023

Transfer station revenues and expenses are on target for the quarter.

Operating revenues

- Revenues are 45.9% of the budget.
- There was modest recycling revenue of \$585.45.
- Payments by partner towns are current.
- Fee collections are up relative to budget, at 55.57%. This was influenced by higher rates.

Operating Expenses

Expenses are at 45.94% of the budget, slightly less than anticipated.

Wages were higher due to summer help and during a planned medical absence.

Tipping and hauling costs are close to budget.

Equipment O & M was lightly utilized at 10.51%. Spring repairs will accelerate usage.

Members of the public may address the SWRC on issues pertinent to the agenda.

- No members present.

Unfinished Business

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Presentation

- Initial budget numbers have been calculated and there may be some other changes, but Eric does not expect there to be any big changes to these numbers.
- New state valuations were uniform across all three towns, so the relative share of expenses have not changed.
- There is a 7.2% projected increase in operating costs.

Capital items to be included in proposal for June 2024 warrant article

Includes final payment for MSW compactor.

There is \$25,000 scheduled for replacement of roll-off containers, but Eric recommends the station continue to rent and keep funds in reserve.

The current unaudited reserve balance is \$60,000.

Canopy Structure

- H.E. Callahan estimate for canopy structure came in at \$750,000.
- The project may change scope, maybe a smaller shed style cover for the single sort compactor and revisit a canopy or other movable cover for roll-off demolition containers. Weather has a significant effect on equipment. Also, even though there are drains for liquid, rain gets into mattresses and materials causing higher weight and greater cost.

Updates on progress for changes to ordinance concerning stickers.

Karen & Eric will work together on this.

Next Meetings

- Wednesday, April 10, 2024 in Wayne, location TBD.
- Wednesday, July 10, 2024 in Fayette at Starling Hall.

Adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Black

Approved April 10, 2024