

**Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station
Solid Waste Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Minutes**

Called Meeting to Order at 4:00pm

1. **Quorum and Meeting Attendance** – S. Miller (BH Chair), T. Welgoss (S), S. Dooley (BH), M. Allen (S), C. Stark (S), J. Atwell (BH Town Administrator), M. Rockwell (BH Treasurer)
2. **Approval of Minutes for February 27th** – Tabled.
3. **Public Comment** – No Public Comment.

Business

1. **Transfer Station Manager Update (Soper)** –
 - a. **BDS Tire Recycling** – BDS charges \$4 per tire (for normal sizes) and larger sizes go for \$20 – \$75 each. They will pick up once per month. We should change the signage to reflect the difference in rate for the larger tires.
 - b. **Paint Projects** – The Crew has started doing some painting in various areas of the facility.
 - c. **Cylinder Swap** – New refurbished compactor is getting a new cylinder with more horsepower.
 - d. **Cards for Transfer Station Stickers** – M. Allen asked if there was a need for cards (explaining why stickers are important). D. Soper advised yes.
 - e. **Fees for Non-Resident Dumping** – C. Stark moved to double what the Ellsworth Transfer Station charges for dropping off trash; S. Dooley seconded. Vote: 5/0 Approved. Currently, Ellsworth is charging \$3/bag.
 - f. **Hermon Freedom Park** – D. Soper found a mower with a 26” deck to mow the field at the transfer station for \$2,299. He also mentioned wanting a finish mower for the other areas. S. Miller suggested that he may be able to rent from the Town of Blue Hill instead of purchasing.
2. **Review of 2024 Revenues/Expenses (Atwell/Rockwell)** – All contributing towns have paid their first quarter payments; however, some were paid at last year’s rate as they need to have their town meetings to approve the newer rates. S. Miller reminded the Committee that there should be interest charges per the new License Agreement. M Rockwell advised the Committee that there were no signed copies of the new License Agreement. S. Miller advised that the Select Board for Blue Hill will sign at the next meeting (Monday, April 1st). M. Allen asked to get a copy and she would have Surry take care of their signatures. The Committee requested that the budget be input before the next meeting. J Atwell will make sure to get them entered.
3. **Report on Visit to Municipal Waste Solutions Plant in Hampden (Welgoss)** – Tom Welgoss, Mary Allen and David Soper toured the Hampden waste facility with Mike Carroll. They have and continue to reevaluate their business approach. Pulp making is not cost effective, so they are disbanding that production. They are focusing more on converting solid waste to gas and selling that to Bangor Gas. Their goal is to start accepting some waste by the spring of 2025 and be full scale by 2026.

Other Business

1. **DM&J Alternative** – Bolsters is an alternative to DM&J. The Committee would like to check and compare costs between the two vendors.
2. **PERC** – Evan Coleman is a co-owner with the Town of Orrington.
3. **Food Compost** – Blue Hill and Surry Towns should not be promoting composting per the agreement with Municipal Review Committee. Other communities are not under the same restraints.
4. **Sorting** – The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) contract/agreement states how and what we sort.
5. **Seasonal Employee Potential** – S. Miller moved to offer employment as a part-time (20-hour/week) summer employee to Michael Dooley; C. Stark seconded. Vote: 4/0/1 (S. Dooley abstained) Approved.

Executive Session

S. Dooley moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matter; M. Allen seconded. Vote: 5/0 Approved.

Executive session began at 5:02pm and ended at 5:49pm. After executive session, S. Dooley moved to put Lucas Ashmore on administrative leave without pay until further notice; C. Stark seconded. Vote: 5/0 Approved.

Adjournment

S. Miller moved to adjourn at 5:50pm; M. Allen seconded. Vote: 5/0 Approved.