

Minutes of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

General Services Conference Room – 311 N. State Street

Attending: Councilors: Allen Bennett, Liz Blanchard, Mike Dellolacono, Jan McClure and Keith Nyhan (Chair); Committee Members: Arthur Aznive, Melanie Dorion and Mike Russell.

Guest: Councilor Jennifer Kretovic

Staff: City Manager Tom Aspell; Director of General Services Chip Chesley; Scribe Cheri Forrest; General Services Business Manager Jeff Hoadley; City Solicitor Jim Kennedy; Deputy City Manager-Finance Brian LeBrun; Office of Management & Budget Director Bob McManus and General Services Solid Waste Manager Pat Winn

Absent: Committee Members Greg Banks, Matt Cashman and Terry Clarkson (retiring).

The meeting was called to order at 4:40PM by Chair Keith Nyhan. With 8 members in attendance it was determined there would be a quorum to receive motions.

Item #1: Approval of Mar 27 meeting minutes. It was brought to the attention of the committee that there was a correction needed on page 1, item 1, paragraph 4, sentence 1. This should read: It was noted that 60% of the bag's cost is collection and 40% is disposal.

Keith made a motion to accept the amended minutes, the committee unanimously agreed.

Item #2: Letter from Herbert Leisy Jr. regarding refuse problem along Old Loudon Road. Chip started with a brief explanation of the Blue Bag Program. This program would allow and encourage the assistance of the public in cleaning up these problem areas. We would provide the "blue" bags to groups or individuals who express an interest in performing volunteer work or community service hours. The City would manage the collection of these blue bags.

Melanie asked who would be overseeing this program. Chip replied that the blue bags will be acquired through City's purchasing department. The actual program would be managed by Pat Winn the Solid Waste Manager.

Liz asked if it would be possible to recruit the homeless into this program? Keith replied no, due to a conversation with Tom Aspell where it was determined that that option may carry with it a potential impression of liability on the part of the City.

A motion was made to accept the Blue Bag Program by Keith, seconded by Mike D. and with no objections the motion was approved.

ITEM #3: Terry Clarkson Retirement. Keith reminded the committee that Terry had recently retired from the committee. His position represented the Downtown contingency. It would be beneficial to replace that position with someone who also would represent that group. He requested the committee to please be mindful of anyone who may have an interest in being on the committee and specifically in the Downtown area. Currently there are 2 openings to be filled.

Item #4: NH Community PAYT Bag Survey. Chip advised the committee that a survey was conducted by Pat and approximately 75-80% of the retailers had been informally questioned. He referred to Jeff to present the results.

Jeff stated that 16 retailers were polled. Questions were tailored for the smaller and larger retailers alike. Some of the questions asked were – How did they feel about the Purple Bag program?, What impact did they feel it had on their traffic flow?, What comments did they have about the service? Among others.

The digested results of this survey revealed that the larger retailers provide the bags primarily as a community/customer service, while the smaller retailers would like to see a monetary incentive in addition to the customer service component for them to take space on their shelves. Smaller retailers often have to purchase bags from a larger retailer due to minimum quantity requirements from the City's supplier.

After the presentation, the floor was open for questions and discussion.

Mike D. questioned if retailers spoke about monetary concerns with the program. Jeff responded that that topic was not asked about with consideration to not stirring up concerns. Jeff also said that in some research the only community that provides retailers with an incentive is Dover and that is \$.04. The cost of their large bag is \$2.15 and the small bag is \$1.45.

Liz asked if this was a written survey and how were the questions asked. Pat replied that it was verbal and he asked the questions.

Keith reported that he was told the South Main Cumberland's no longer sold bags. Pat said that Corporate Cumberland's had confirmed that all 3 of their Concord stores would provide the bags. However, Pat did note, that Corporate says may not always translate fully down to each staff person of each store.

Keith said this was a good start and inquired if this item should be tabled with a future action item:

Action Item: General Services to work on a formal survey that would include a question about what would be considered an acceptable convenience fee.

Before the topic was tabled, more discussion followed. Jan asked "What is the purpose of the survey?" and expressed her concern that we may be stirring things up with no need at this time. Mike D. asked about other PAYT communities and how many locations were available. Jeff responded that Dover had 21-22 and that we hoped to confirm 3 Rite Aids in the near future. Melanie added that she does not find it very convenient to get the purple bags.

Keith summarized with the concern that if we don't address this issue now, we may face a more critical time in the future trying to get retailers to supply the purple bags. He requested to table this discussion with the agreement to work on a formal survey to explore with follow up.

Discussion tabled.

Item #5: Review Solid Waste Removal (Non-Public Session, RSA 91-1:3)

Chip provided an overview of proposed agreement between the Co-op and Wheelabrator. He reminded the committee that the current agreement with the Co-op terminates in 2014 and advised that the Co-op and Wheelabrator have been negotiating a new contract to provide solid waste disposal services through 2022. He advised the committee that the general terms of the new agreement were presented by the Co-op at their Joint Board meeting on April 17, 2013. The terms of the agreement would provide a tip fee of \$66.80 per ton through 2014, and a tip fee of about \$66.80 per ton (that includes a \$2 to \$3 per ton administrative cost from the Co-op) escalated annually at CPI and that escalation will never be less than 1% or greater than 5% in any year. Chip noted that the new agreement did not require the Co-op to operate the Ashfill in Franklin and that the City would receive a payment of about \$708,000 if they entered into the Co-op/Wheelabrator agreement. Brian further discussed the basis for this payment. Brian noted that Wheelabrator Brian and Chip discussed two contingencies in the agreement between the Co-op and Wheelabrator:

1. Tax Impact- Wheelabrator shall have the right to terminate the agreement with twelve months notice in the event the City assessment of the property exceeds the CPI
2. True shut down-Wheelabrator reserves the right to terminate the agreement if the decision is made to discontinue operations at this location.

The City issued a Request for Proposals for Solid Waste Services on April 19, 2013 and received proposals on May 17, 2013.

At this point Keith responded that this meeting was noticed as the possibility to go in to a Non-Public Session .

At 5:12PM, Keith requested a motion to take this session Non-Public (pursuant to RSA91-A:3,II(d)) to discuss the financial matters regarding the Solid Waste RFP. Motion was made by Mike D and seconded by Melanie.

Solicitor James Kennedy asked that all non-committee members leave at this time. Councilor Jen Kretovic left the room.

The meeting resumed at 5:40PM.

Jen returned to the meeting

Keith asked for a motion to approve authorization for City Manager to present resolution to Council on Thursday, June 20, authorizing the City Manager to withdraw from the Co-op if it is the best interest of the City. Motion was made by Allen and seconded by Mike D.

Keith thanked everyone for their participation.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45PM.