

Tri Town Select Board Meeting – June 4, 2018 4:00pm

Present: Sugar Hill: John Strasser, Margo Connors, Richard Bielefield, Jennifer Gaudette
Franconia: Jill Brewer, Jeff Blodgett, Eric Meth, Holly Burbank
Easton: Toni Woodruff, Bob Thibault, Zak Mei

Guests: Scott Leslie, Tim Blake, Peter and Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Justin Roshak

The boards opened the meeting to ask questions presented to Franconia DPW Director Scott Leslie and Tri Town Transfer Station Manager Tim Blake. The Sugar Hill Select Board has previously written a letter to Franconia in regard to the Monday Holiday closure of the Transfer Station. Holly noted that she had spoken with Scott about the concerns. Sugar Hill had wondered if it would be possible to have the Transfer Station have hours on Tuesday after a Monday holiday. Scott noted that they had done this for the commercial accounts and it did not prove worthwhile. Tim noted that even with the Wednesday closing the transfer station is open three more hours a week. The current schedule allows employees to have two consecutive days off. Thursday is currently the work day and there is a need to have the facility closed that day. The boards agreed that perhaps more education needs to be out so people can make the transition. Margo questioned if the revenue might be down as people staying for the weekend would not be buying bags and able to bring trash to station. Erik noted that Garnet Hill has gotten a dumpster and a cardboard compactor so they are not utilizing the Transfer Station as they once did.

Margo brought up the fact that recycling is no longer paying for itself with China not buying any longer. She asked about the recycling/crushing of glass to be used as a replacement for gravel. A machine could be rented for the process but area towns that have tried using the crushed glass and it was not successful. Littleton has stockpiled and is now stuck with it. Discussion followed on the paper and glass going to landfill and the weight of same which adds to cost. Margo shared with the other boards a letter to the editor in regard to the Littleton Transfer Station.

Holly wanted to give a shout out to Scott and Tim for the positive changes at the transfer station. The comments were followed by a round of applause.

The boards then moved on to the Tri Town Intergovernmental Agreement for the Management of Solid Waste. This agreement has been expired for many years. The new agreement will be for 5 years. The 2016 Census figures will be used. The physical address of the Transfer Station needs to be inserted into the agreement. Bob inquired as to the current Special Revenue Fund being held by Franconia but all three towns expend. Holly will get legal opinion on sections 5 Debt and 6 Capital Reserves. The cost allocation will be updated with the current census figures as well. The liability insurance is covered by Franconia and the costs included in the budget that is then split. Additional Functions and Regulations will be noted all three towns will be required. Questions in regard to the disposition of property/building/equipment. Holly will get legal opinion.

Margo questioned if there was any room for expansion with the area currently maxed out. Holly noted that the town had taken a piece behind the dump by tax deed. Very wet and has dumped material on it.

Zak inquired if the personnel had attended the recent Waste Training and Holly confirmed that the manager had. Holly noted that the revenue received is brought in weekly and balanced. She noted that the facility had been cleaned up and fencing installed between the Transfer Station and the Highway Department. Additional fencing set up to prevent anything blowing into the river.

There was a water issue that has been repaired and Holly is seeing if it warrants an insurance claim. They have gotten a porta toilet for use at the Transfer Station. A new spill kit was purchased for oil emergencies and also a containment holder.

Margo inquired if they had looked into using a square for payment and Holly noted currently not a good internet signal. The percent would be charged back to the customer and it would protect the employees instead of taking cash. The fee schedule is going to be updated.

The question of the member towns using the Transfer Station came up and it was noted Sugar Hill stopped taking town trash as they were asked to pay many years ago. Franconia and Easton both utilize the transfer station without cost.

Mr. Thibault made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bielefield that the Transfer Station does not charge any member town for normal everyday trash including events. The vote was approved unanimously.

Non-day to day trash would be charged and the towns billed. A question was asked about having a scale to weight construction debris as the charges are inconsistent. Currently the charges are by the yard. Also, with a wide variety of prices they need to nail down electronic costs as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Jennifer P. Gaudette
Administrative Assistant

These minutes, though believed to be accurate and correct, are subject to additions, deletions and corrections by the Select Board at its next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. They are being made available at this time to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91-A:2.