

TOWN OF ASHLAND
WASTE TO ENERGY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE MEETING AND MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, October 4TH 5:00 PM
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM 6 COLLINS STREET

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Alan Cilley called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. Alan Cilley, Craig Moore, William Hess, Bonnie Bethune, Harry Gallien, and Mike Myshrall in attendance.

Minutes for 9/28/23 WTE meeting unavailable for review.

II. NEW BUSINESS

Upon invitation by WTE Committee, Jeremy Smith of Waldron, was in attendance along with Ahmed Abbaker, Electrical Engineer, and Grant Page, VP of Construction, also from Waldron. Key plan on Collin Street presented by Waldron – committee cited concerns, such as current one-way bridge, access through residential neighborhoods, traffic through town off Exit 24.

Craig Moore presented alternate site off 93 Exit 24, north on Rt. 3 citing: town-owned land; easy access; adjacent water source; Class A well; high tension power lines to Eversource; switch station on property; not in flood plain (in watershed).

Questions presented to Waldron prior to meeting:

- 1) Who needs to approve WTE facility? OSHA, EPA, NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), NH DOT and ISO New England (ISO-NE)
- 2) Who would own the facility? Ashland
- 3) How much electricity will be produced? 12 megawatts. At 5 megawatt stage, Eversource would do a preliminary study to see what other projects in area are producing electricity; ISO-NE will look at project details (modeling, transition study) and determine if facility is eligible to deliver 12 megawatts. Rate can be locked in or on a swinging scale. Alan Cilley cited revenue generation as paramount due to infrastructure needs of the town. Jerry Smith recommended a waste stream survey with characterization; consider 3-5-10 year disposal contracts.
- 4) Will Ashland still operate the Transfer Station/Recycling Center? Yes - Jeremy Smith stressed incoming material must be “post recycled content & non-construction &

demolition debris (C&D)" per NHDES regulations and for best and most consistent burn. Discussion ensued about continuing to manage recyclables at the Ashland Transfer Station.

- 5) What sources of revenue will be generated in addition to the sale of electricity? Fly ash can be sold; metal can be sold.
- 6) What are some of the ongoing costs besides general maintenance, operations, staffing? Bottom ash disposal in designated ash landfill.
- 7) What is the reduction of MSW in volume? 6 to 1
- 8) What is the reduction of MSW in weight? 90%
- 9) What are some local and regional impacts? Ashland will no longer have its municipal solid waste (MSW) hauled to Bethlehem and landfilled; beneficial regional impacts for municipalities/commercial entities.
- 10) How much more electricity than Ashland needs will be generated annually? 50 times more. Ashland uses 2 million megawatts/year, facility would generate 98,200,000 megawatts/year. The average household in Ashland uses 2-3 kilowatts/year; with 800 Ashland customers that is equivalent to 12 KW/year. (1,000 kilowatts = 1 megawatt)
- 11) Will the facility generate electricity and then Ashland need to buy it back? Yes
- 12) What will the stack height be? Depends on the lay of the land.
- 13) Is another substation required at new, proposed site? Yes
- 14) How much further can Waldron go without funding? Per Jeremy Smith, Waldron is highly motivated to do this project with the Town.
- 15) Will Town have costs to design/build facility to get facility approved at Town at March 2024 Deliberative Session? Yes
- 16) Who builds the facility? Waldron is pure construction manager; construction will be sub-contracted.
- 17) Would Waldron attend/speak at March 2024 deliberative session? Yes

Prior to adjournment, several WTE committee members went with Waldron staff to see the 1st proposed site on Collins Street prior to the landfill on the right.

Upcoming tasks outlined to include but not limited to:

- Waldron to do a write up/drawing for alternative site off Rt. 3; continue to look at sizing criteria; submit a more official response to town; noted the State of NH recognizes the need of this kind of facility
- Continue to gather information about proposed waste-to-energy facility to present to residents at March 2025 Town Meeting (Warrant article due mid-January 2025)

- Continued plans visit to Wheelabrator Waste-to-Energy Incinerator in Penacook, NH
- Northern Board Regional Commission (NBRC) grant opportunity being reviewed
- Schedule next WTE Committee meeting for Wednesday, 10/18/23 at Utility Conference Room 6 Collins Street at 5pm.

III. MOTION: To adjourn at 6:30 pm by Alan Cilley

SECOND: Craig Moore

VOTE 5-0:

MOTION PASSED

WTE Committee Meeting Minutes 10/16/23