

TOWN OF ASHLAND
WASTE TO ENERGY COMMITTEE (WTE)
COMMITTEE FORMATION AND MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023 5:00 PM
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM 6 COLLINS STREET

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Alan Cilley called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. In attendance were Alan Cilley, Craig Moore, Selectman Charlie Bozzello, Bonnie Bethune, Harry Gallien, and Mike Myshrall with William Hess excused.

MOTION: Alan Cilley

To accept minutes from the 10/18/23 WTE Committee meetings as presented.

SECOND: *Harry Gallien*

VOTE: 5-0 approved as written.

II. NEW BUSINESS –

Jeremy Smith of Waldron joined the meeting in person at 5:15 and stated Site #3 on Collins St. was evaluated and deemed not preferable to build facility/power plant. Site #2 (off 93 N Exit 24 and left on Rt. 3 north towards Plymouth) was presented; details outlined.

- Suggests change to a “zigzag” transformer taking 115 KB line from facility to substation and back to Town
- Waldron confident in layout and electrical connection of Site #2
- Technological advances in waste-to-energy cited:
 - Wilcox steam engine
 - traveling grate system
 - cipher off power for Town and residual power wholesale elsewhere
 - long term savings with high voltage, less heat
 - send power to larger substation; Town buys back electricity for own needs
- Town owns facility therefore regulates waste in (does not have to accept out-of-state MSW)
- Current power deficit will be bought by others (85% - 87% availability i.e. 13 – 15% of the electricity produced is the Towns)
- Town would hire a service to offer electricity to other entities

Jeremy Smith continues discussion with Site Evaluation Committee and determining if facility is a green project where material is “post-recycled” (after marketable recyclables are removed).

Discussion as to whether some construction and demolition debris (C&D) will be accepted at this facility. Only post recycled municipal solid waste (MSW) will be accepted from Town and other entities. Discussion was held about accepting some C&D and having a tub grinder on site.

Upcoming information from Waldron to include:

- Wilcox steam turbine and traveling grates
- Cost allocation; what town gets above and beyond initial cost of building facility
- Flow Chart for project
- Construction management team to look at Site #2 for topography, etc.
- Jeremy Smith stated this project is a high priority opportunity for Waldron
- Jeremy Smith requested \$50K to complete a waste study in November/December 2023 to determine waste tonnages to supply facility; Charlie Bozzello to talk with Selectboard.

Charlie Bozzello stated this is a hot button issue for town and WTE Committee needs to prepare an article before 1/01/24 for Town Warrant – including:

- Costs and benefits (financial and municipal waste services)
- Operations and maintenance (O&M)
- It takes 6 megawatts to run plant – after 6 megawatts the electricity to be sold
- Town will be asking approval from taxpayers to draw up bonds for completion of project and do a detailed design
- Projected facility cost \$40M – \$60M
- Jeremy Smith prepared to speak at Deliberative Session
- 1st year costs will include design, engineering, permitting
- Town does not pay bond until facility is built

III. OLD BUSINESS -

- Plan visit to WIN Waste/Wheelabrator Waste-to-Energy Incinerator in Penacook, NH – was scheduled for 11/08/23 but due to some Committee members unable to attend, Bonnie Bethune to reschedule to either 11/15/23 or 11/22/23 at 9am – pending.
- Fred Welch continues to research road ownership and right-of-way to Town land (Site #2)
- Waldron to present with WTE Committee to Selectboard on Monday, 12/04/23 thereafter 2 public hearings required

- Committee continues to focus on financial benefit to town and where will tonnage come from (125 tons per day)
- Scheduled next WTE Committee meeting for Wednesday, 11/15/23 at Utility Conference Room 6 Collins Street at 5pm.

III. MOTION: by Alan Cilley to adjourn meeting.

SECOND: Craig Moore

Motion Passed unanimously; meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.

WTE Committee Meeting Minutes 11/20/23